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Tempers flare at consultation meeting over Deer Park future

Group accused of 'not listening to patients'

By George Welch

AN NHS consultation on major changes to Oxfordshire's health services has been greeted with anger and scepticism by campaigners fighting to save Witney's Deer Park Medical Centre.

A six-strong panel of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) representatives made a presentation on proposals before fielding a Q&A with Witney residents as part of the NHS's 'Big Consultation', outlining an overhaul of health provision in the county.

While the proposals are countywide, the topic of conversation at Witney Corn Exchange on Thursday was dominated by one thing – the impending closure of Deer Park Medical Centre.

The Edington Square surgery is set to shut at the end of next month, but its future lies in the hands of the Secretary of State after the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) voted earlier this month that its closure represents a 'substantial change'.

Thursday's consultation was an opportunity for Witney residents, patients, councillors and politicians to ask health bosses questions about phase one of potential changes to Oxfordshire's NHS amid swingeing cuts across the organisation.

One of the panellists, Eynsham Medical Centre GP Dr Miles Carter, clarified the OCCG's stance on Deer Park.

He said: "No-one in the OCCG wanted Deer Park to close. We didn't. Why would we want to close a surgery which is functioning well?

"The problem was that when the contract came up for renewal, we put it out to tender, a bid came in and they weren't able to offer a service that was affordable."

The chief executive of the OCCG, David Smith, added that "we cannot carry on like we are", as the county's NHS braces for a deficit of £250m by 2020.

Mr Smith, who said there won't be any GPs at Deer Park from April 1 and doesn't consider Deer Park's closure as a 'substantial change', also said the OCCG had to make steps in the interest of the centre's patients.

But members of the 'Save Deer Park Medical Centre' campaign group are not convinced they are being listened to, with Linda Sturt, a patient at Deer Park for 17-years, saying she 'isn't buying' the consultation and that it was 'an absolute waste of time'.

The Minster Lovell resident has six

• Continues on page 3

• Witney residents quiz OCCG members with Witney MP Robert Courts, standing right

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Day celebrates contributions and importance of migrants

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFORD took part in countrywide celebrations to mark '1 Day Without Us' to honour the contribution of migrants to British society whilst also taking another shot at US President Donald Trump and his "toxic politics".

The public were invited to link arms and carry flags to celebrate diversity and the migrant population on Monday, after a report from the New Economics Foundation estimated that if every migrant withdrew their labour for one day, it would cost the UK £328m.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan, was at Oxford Town Hall to offer messages of solidarity and support for immigrants in both Oxford and the UK.

Attendees had the option of coming in national costume and bringing flags.

Oxford-based photographer Fran Monks was also there to celebrate with a pop-up photo booth, gathering a diverse collection of faces of immigrants to represent the city.

Cllr Altaf-Khan said: "Oxford is a city of sanctuary and has long been a destination for international immigrants with over 28 per cent of the city's population born outside the UK.

"I am proud to celebrate this day and to express Oxford City Council's ongoing commitment to recognising the value of immigrants in the city."

The University of Oxford's Nuffield orthopaedic centre also took part with an event to celebrate migrant staff and their supporters, hosting a coffee morning, and a paper mural accompanied by photos and handwritten notes on migration and its value.

Oxford students also organised a mass walkout in Oxford city centre on Monday in support of migrants and to protest against the 'toxic politics of Donald Trump'.

Campaigners Oxford Migrant Solidarity, alongside Oxford University Student Union, masterminded the walkout that saw students leave classes to gather in Radcliffe Square at 11.30am.

A statement on the walkout event's Facebook page read: "We are calling on Oxford students to join in making it very clear to our government, and to the world, that this state visit will not happen in our name.

"We are calling on Oxford to be part of standing up to our own governments continued victimisation of migrants from the building of the wall in Calais to the deportation of thousands of international students."

At 1pm, people countrywide supporting 1 Day Without Us were asked to gather in public spaces and link arms in a gesture of solidarity and appreciation of migrants.

The group posted on their page: "We are millions. Let us stand together and show it. Let's reject the politics of division and hatred.

"Let's make tomorrow better than today."

• *Representatives take turns to read out messages of solidarity in English and Chinese (Picture from Oxford City Council)*

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Tributes paid to 'kind and loving' Domingos

THE family of a man stabbed to death in an incident in Headington a week ago have paid tribute to a "loving and caring man".

The statement was released last Thursday by Thames Valley Police on behalf of 35-year-old Domingos Ramalho's family after the fatal stabbing.

The tribute read: "Domingos was a kind, loving and caring man. He was a good and trusted friend to many and a family man dedicated to his partner and children.

"His sudden loss affects us all greatly and he will always be in our hearts and prayers and will never be forgotten."

The family has asked that their privacy is respected and that they are allowed to be left to grieve in private.

Egidio Da Silva Alves, 27, of The Slade, Oxford, appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Wednesday last week charged with the murder of Mr Ramalho but will not enter a plea until his next court hearing in April.

Alves was arrested on Monday, February 13 and charged two days later with murder and possession of a bladed article.

• *Domingos Ramalho*

Thames Valley Police officers and ambulances were called to the incident in Windmill Road just after 3pm on Monday last week, where the victim had sustained stab wounds.

Mr Ramalho was taken to John Radcliffe Hospital where he later died.

The day after the stabbing took place, senior investigating officer Det Insp Dave Hubbard, from Thames Valley Police's Major Crime unit, said: "We believe this to have been an isolated incident, and we are now conducting a thorough investigation."

Witney radio needs your help to make move to FM

THE founder of Witney TV has decided to try his hand at radio and is appealing for the public's help to make that happen.

Witney Radio needs at least £4,000 for equipment and licenses needed to run as an FM station, with the hope that it will broadcast on the new frequency no later than June 1.

In 2010, Barry Clark set up the community TV station because he felt there were "still a lot of local stories left to be told".

Witney Radio recruited around 30 volunteers and broadcast as an online radio station for around 4 years.

In 2016, Witney Radio was selected for an FM licence.

The radio's volunteers have put together a series of 'rewards,' including the chance to be the first voice on Witney Radio FM, or even co-hosting a show.

To help get the station on air, visit tinyurl.com/hpjvp2x.

Flood prevention measures pay off

By George Welch

A MILLION pound investment over 10 years to protect west Oxfordshire homes has proved a success, the district council has said.

In July 2007, 1,631 homes and 72 businesses were flooded in west Oxfordshire, and many roads and bridges were impassable after intense storms.

As the 10th anniversary of the 2007 floods approaches, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) has spent more than £1m on prevention, maintenance and improvements to reduce the impact of any future flooding.

The council said hundreds of properties in west Oxfordshire have been saved from flooding as a result of the measures rolled out.

Work to help flood prevention has included 5km of ditch clearing and inspections of known problematic pinch points, culvert inlets and drainage systems.

Also, every new development of up to 10 homes is scrutinised to ensure acceptable flood prevention measures have been taken.

Carol Reynolds, cabinet member for environment and community safety at WODC, said: "West Oxfordshire District Council has delivered over and above its legal responsibilities and in the process we have prevented flooding at hundreds of properties.

"Without doubt if this work had not been carried out over the last 10 years, we would have experienced more flooding in 2014 and 2016 when neighbouring districts were hit.

"But we are not resting on our laurels and will continue to react to information from residents."

In Shilton, a bund built in 2014 using an £80,000 grant from the Environment Agency and £15,000 raised by residents and the parish council prevented 17 homes from flooding in 2016.

• *Left, apprentice groundsman Sam Wright and senior groundsman Brian Stevens*

Major and minor work has also been carried out at around 30 locations in the district, from Alvescot to Yelford.

These range from a flood relief culvert at Westwell to river clearance work at Kelmscott.

News Bites

Orchestra leaving

WOODSTOCK: A renowned orchestra based in Woodstock is relocating to Belgium as a result of Brexit.

The European Union Baroque Orchestra, based in the west Oxfordshire town since 1985, will move to its new permanent home in Antwerp by 2018.

The orchestra bosses said the relocation was "inevitable" after last June's EU referendum result.

The charitable organisation, co-founded by the EU, has cancelled the majority of this year's concert schedule and will play its last concert for 2017 in London in May.

The administration of the orchestra plans to move to the Augustinus Muziekcentrum (AMUZ) in Antwerp.

Road closure

WITNEY: The town council has issued advance warning of a five-day temporary road closure.

Oxfordshire County Council is closing the road between the A415 at Ducklington to the A4095 at Curbridge due to public safety and to facilitate carriageway investigation works.

The closure will operate from March 13 for five days.

Emergency vehicles will still be able to access the road.

Have your say online

Deer Park campaigners 'convinced they're not being listened to'

• *From front page*

other family members who use the centre and says the closure will have "a tremendous impact" on her family.

She said: "We have fought hard for this. It has stressed us all out but we have said we will fight this to the end.

"I'm very angry. We're all angry. I think they are putting it [the consultations] out to see what reception they get but they've already made up their mind."

Mr Smith disagreed and described the series of consultations as "genuine".

Chair of the Patient Participation Group, Cllr Brenda Churchill, said: "A lot of people are really not happy with what they've been told. They [the OCCG] lie through their back teeth – it's dreadful."

They said they were expecting a response from Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt this week but are yet to receive anything.

Mark Churchill, husband of Brenda, criticised the OCCG for not consulting with patients before announcing Deer Park's closure.

He said: "You have not listened to the people of Witney at all on this.

"You have disregarded us, you are closing that surgery without taking any consultation from any of the patients. You are rough riding everybody in Witney.

"Your idea was to close Deer Park from the beginning and that frightens me for the rest of the facilities within Witney, especially the hospital."

Jane Southworth, a legal adviser to the Save Deer Park group, said Virgin Care, the current care providers, are keen to reach an agreement with the OCCG and warned that no 'irreversible' steps – including dispersing patients – can be made once the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.

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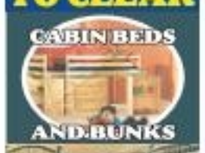

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Power station workers' families still seeking answers a year on

By George Welch

TWELVE months on from the disaster which cost the lives of four men when one of a town's most iconic landmarks collapsed, the community has vowed to never forget.

Today marks exactly a year since the boiler house at Didcot 'A' Power Station partially collapsed, killing four workers and shattering the lives of their families.

The body of 53-year-old Mick Collings, from North Yorkshire, was found on the same day as the collapse.

But the bodies of Ken Cresswell, 57, and John Shaw, 61, both from Rotherham, and Christopher Huxtable, 34, from Swansea, remained in the rubble.

It took 201 days from the day of the collapse to find and recover the bodies of all three men.

And now, a year on, we are no closer to knowing what really happened as Thames Valley Police and Health and Safety Executive investigations continue.

The Didcot community is to come together today to remember the men who lost their lives.

Didcot Mayor Steve Connel said: "Although the tragedy at Didcot Power Station was 12 months ago it is still something which always pulls on the heartstrings of Didcot whenever we look at the new gap in our skyline.

"I know words can often mean little in times of pain, but if the families of the four gentlemen happen to read this I would just like to take this moment to say that your loved ones will not be forgotten by Didcot."

Cllr Connel said that, because the power station was in the Sutton Courtenay parish, Didcot Town Council doesn't have the power to insist anything is put on the site as a tribute.

He said this "didn't sit right" with him and has planned a series of tributes in the Didcot parish instead.

To commemorate the partial collapse on February 23, 2016, Didcot will hold a minute's silence at 4pm and will fly the town flag at half-mast all day today.

Discussions are also ongoing about naming four streets on the Didcot North East development after the victims.

Didcot MP Ed Vaizey contacted site owners RWE Npower in July, calling on them to fund a memorial for the lost men.

He told the Oxfordshire Guardian this week: "I would still like to see some sort of tribute but feel that this has to be sensitive to the feelings of the families involved.

"In time, some input from them about what they would like would be appropriate."

Police said that more than 1,300 statements have been taken, and over 2,600 physical and documentary exhibits and 60,000 still images and video footage have been collected.

Senior investigating officer Det Ch Insp Craig Kirby, said: "Given the scale and unprecedented nature of this incident, the highly complex investigation being conducted, is progressing at pace.

"The evidence is being examined by both Thames Valley Police (TVP) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), with assistance from forensic archaeologists, metallurgists and structural engineers.

"In the coming months TVP and HSE will have completed their work at the Didcot site, and the investigation will continue off-site.

"We continue to support those affected by this incident and they are being given regular updates on the progress of the investigation."

"TVP and HSE are entirely committed to uncovering why this tragedy happened and will seek justice for those affected, should any wrongdoing be found to have taken place."

Npower is to hold a private minute's silence and will lay flowers at the former power station at 2pm today as an act of respect for the four men.

In a statement, Npower said: "Our thoughts are with the families of Mick Collings, John Shaw, Ken Cresswell and Chris Huxtable at this very difficult time.

"The tragedy has had a huge effect on everyone involved at the site and the teams will come together quietly to remember the men who lost their lives and all the emergency teams who worked tirelessly following the tragic incident."

The first body to be recovered after six months of searching was that of Mr Huxtable, who was recovered on August 31, before Mr Cresswell was found on September 7 and Mr Shaw – the last to be recovered – on September 11.

An inquest into their deaths was opened in September, but a full inquest cannot be carried out until the investigation has concluded.

■ **For more on this story, see this week's edition of The Oxford Paper.**

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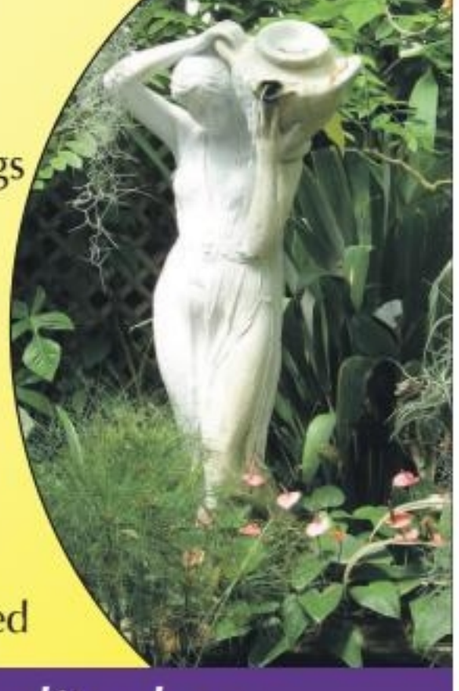

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How far can you get for no money within 36 hours?

By Eva Astreinidou

• *Eleanor Holt and Chevonne van Rhee are aiming to get to New Zealand*

OXFORD'S Raise and Give (RAG) charity Jailbreak is back this year, with students embarking on a trip of a lifetime armed with no money, tickets, or passes, and just 36 hours to get as far away from Oxford as possible.

Two of the students taking on this year's Jailbreak are Eleanor Holt and Chevonne van Rhee, both third year Oxford University students.

With the countdown being on just two days, the 'Jailbreak' challenge is set to begin at 6am this Saturday, with a goal to get as far away from Oxford as possible by 6pm on Sunday.

The aim is to reach Oxford, New Zealand, 11,771 miles away, whilst spending no money on travel.

The duo are also hoping to raise £100,000 in sponsorship, with all of the proceedings going straight to charity and half of the cash going to charities based in Oxford.

The charities to receive the donations are Oxford Homeless Pathways, Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis, Student Minds, and the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative.

They said: "We are inspired by the work of these charities, and think they are hugely deserving of your support.

"Obviously these are quite big targets, so at the moment we are trying to raise as much awareness as possible and to reach out to the maximum number of potential sponsors.

"We think it's a fantastic (and a pretty unusual) opportunity to raise money and much-needed awareness for four really deserving charities, so at the moment we're mostly excited, if a little apprehensive about the size of the challenge we've set ourselves! But we think getting even close to those goals would be really worthwhile."

The pair will be updating their Facebook and Twitter pages for people to follow their progress along the journey.

Jailbreak is RAG's biggest event of the year, with past students reaching all over the UK, Europe, and beyond, from Poland to Budapest to Istanbul, to Tokyo and South Africa.

Last year the charity raised more than £30,000.

Oxford RAG is Oxford University Student Union's fundraising team.

Year on year they've hosted sporting tournaments, hitch-hikes, talent shows, bungee jumping, street collections in fancy dress and the RAG Ball.

Tablets help hospitals save time

A PROJECT to replace bedside paper charts with tablet computers in Oxfordshire's NHS hospitals has reduced staff time by up to 30 per cent, a study has found.

The System for Electronic Notification and Documentation (SEND) tablet was developed by Oxford University to improve the efficiency of recording the vital signs of patients.

The study, reported in the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, concluded that the time saved was statistically significant and that systems like SEND can be faster than paper charts.

A report on three wards at the Churchill and Horton hospitals found the typical time to record the vital signs on a paper chart – traditionally hung at the end of beds – was three minutes and 35 seconds.

However, the typical time to record the data into SEND was two minutes and 30 seconds.

The study is the biggest report yet on the impact of the system, introduced from 2014 and now fully rolled out at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust hospitals.

Paper co-author David Wong said: "This paper's finding supports the message that we have been hearing from front-line staff, that SEND facilitates fast and accurate recording of patient vital signs.

"SEND frees up more time for clinical care, which we believe will ultimately lead to better outcomes for patients."

The SEND system works through staff inputting a patient's vital signs, such as heart rate and blood pressure.

The tablet – which links to patients' barcoded wristbands to identify them – immediately provides advice on how to manage the patient's care and displays any deterioration in their condition.

Information about patients can also be shared around the trust.

Data was collected from two, five-week periods, one for the paper system and one with SEND, comprising a total of 606 observation sets.

• *The use of tablets to record patient information helps save time*

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£40m to tackle child sexual exploitation

By Eva Astreinidou

THE Home Secretary has announced a £40million package to protect children and young people from sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking and to crack down on offenders.

Amber Rudd revealed the new funding and the launch of a new National Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse on Thursday last week.

The package will also include an extra £20m for the National Crime Agency to tackle online sexual exploitation, £2.2m for organisations working to protect children at risk of trafficking, and the launch of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs).

The centre will comprise of health, law enforcement and social care professionals, and will become the definitive source of information and guidance to those tackling child sexual abuse on the front line.

The new centre will receive £7.5m until 2020.

Ms Rudd announced the measures after visiting Barnardo's Safer Futures in Salford, Greater Manchester, a counselling centre for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Writing for Mumsnet, the Home Secretary said: "Children should be able to grow up free from the horrors of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Something that should go without saying.

"This government has done more than any other to tackle these horrific offences.

"We have increased support for victims, invested in training and technology to improve law enforcement's response to abuse, and brought in a tougher inspection regime.

"I am determined to bring those that would try to steal their childhood to justice."

The Home Office's child trafficking protection fund also awarded nearly £2.2m to seven charities for projects protecting vulnerable children in the UK and overseas who are at risk of trafficking.

In 2013, Nicola Blackwood, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, launched the Childhood Lost campaign to prevent vulnerable children being targeted, groomed and sexually exploited.

The campaign was a response to Operation Bullfinch in 2011, where seven men - Anjum Dogar, Akhtar Dogar, Assad Hussain, Mohammed Karrar, Bassam Karrar, Kamar Jamil and Zeeshan Ahmed – were sentenced for a total of 95 years in an Oxford child sex exploitation case.

On Tuesday, the MP said: "I welcome the new National Centre of Expertise ensuring we have the tools to target offenders. We have seen the devastation child sexual exploitation can cause here in Oxford and every effort must be made to put a stop to it."

A report published by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) in 2015 revealed that a total of 373 children were thought to have been sexually exploited in Oxfordshire over the previous 16 years.

• *Home Secretary Amber Rudd*

• *From left, James Boylan of Oxford Food Bank, store colleague Sammie Ashall, and Caitlin Prentice of the food bank*

Supermarket donates goods to food bank for those in need

A HEADINGTON supermarket has given a boost to Oxford Food Bank's efforts to help people in need.

The Sainsbury's Local store in London Road has become one of the latest to sign up to donate good quality food that would otherwise have gone to waste to the good cause.

Established in 2009, the food bank collects food - fruit, vegetables and dairy and bakery produce - from supermarkets and wholesalers and delivers it to 80 charities in and around the city, with the twin aims of reducing food waste and relieving food poverty.

Mark Fenton, manager of the Headington store, said: "We believe Oxford Food Bank does a fantastic job supporting those in need and wanted to help as much as we can.

"We hope our gesture encourages others to do the same."

Food bank manager Cathy Howard said: "The Oxford Food Bank is pleased to be working to reduce even more food waste in partnership with another Sainsbury's store.

"Our wonderful volunteers now collect surplus food that would have otherwise gone to waste from nearly twenty supermarkets and wholesalers."

The food bank was started by David Cairns and Robin Aitken and initially saw them delivering surplus food from one supermarket to five charities from the back of their cars.

Now based on an industrial estate at Botley, the registered charity has 100 volunteers working seven days a week to collect and distribute food to the charities which support homeless people, families and others in need."

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There's a whole latte love on offer at coffee wagon

By George Welch

A SINGLES-ONLY coffee shop using cutting-edge coffee printing technology has given an Oxford man a unique shot at finding love.

A far cry from conventional methods of meeting love interests, a temporary pop-up coffee shop was set up last month to help singletons find their true love – by having their face printed onto a coffee.

Dating service Match encouraged singles to swing by 'Espresso Yourself' in Shoreditch, east London, which served so-called 'Chappuccinos', 'Femmericanos' and 'Selffees', printed with the profile pictures of its members.

Match recruited singles from across the country to take part, including 26-year-old David Morrison from Oxford.

He said: "As soon as I heard about the idea from Match I was really keen to get involved. It was a really refreshing experience taking part in something different.

"Going for a coffee is always my ideal first date and so searching for a date through coffee seemed perfect to me.

"It was great fun having my face immortalised on froth."

Espresso Yourself opened for two days last month and, following on from the success of the London pop-up shop, Match is considering rolling it out to other areas of the UK.

The service was designed to encourage time-poor, coffee-loving Londoners to find themselves a date while getting their daily caffeine fix.

Six different Match members, including David, decided they wanted to kick off their search for a date in style by featuring on the coffee shop menu for fellow singles to choose from.

Punters were asked to choose from one of the singles on the menu and, after picking their preferred tipple, were handed a free coffee with the profile picture of their chosen single printed into the coffee's foam.

They could then get to know more about their potential admirer (their age, height, occupation, interests etc) by reading the outside of their specially-designed coffee cup.

If they liked what they see – and drink – they could follow a link printed on the cup to track down their match.

The unique beverages were created with the help of Ripples, who developed the coffee printing technology.

The Ripples machine uses a cartridge filled with coffee extract with a combination of 3D and inkjet technology to top off a beverage.

• Full of beans: Coffee drinkers were hoping to grind out a match

Woman stuck chest deep in muddy water

A WOMAN had to be winched to safety after getting stuck in mud in Steventon.

Firefighters were called to the woman at 4.30pm on Wednesday last week after a passer-by noticed her in trouble, chest deep in mud.

The 48-year-old had been out walking her dog when she slipped into a stream that flows around the village green.

She had been in the mud for over an hour before the passer-by noticed her, and firefighters used a sling to get her out. The fire service said she was uninjured but very cold.

Station manager Paul Webster said: "This was an unfortunate accident where the lady dog walker had slipped on the muddy embankment and fallen into the swollen stream, due to the recent rain fall, the ground was soft and she was not able to get out of the water.

"Luckily a fellow dog walker came across the lady and called the emergency services who were able to lift her out of the water using a rescue sling.

"The lady was checked out by our colleagues from the ambulance service, she appeared to have no injuries but was very cold."

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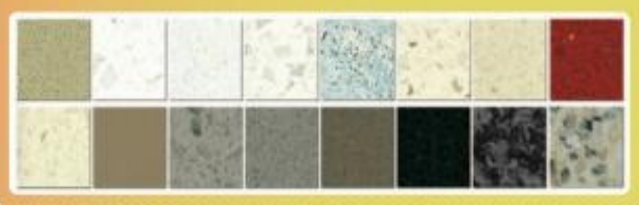

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For more information and to register, visit BicesterVillage.com/jobfair

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Make a splash and help Diabetes UK

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE residents are being urged to pull on their goggles and swimming caps to swim the width of the channel to raise money for charity.

Diabetes UK is looking for swimmers to join their Swim22 Challenge and raise money for research and support for people with the condition.

The idea is to swim 22 miles – the width of the Channel – but people can do it in their local pool and at their own pace.

The challenge, which started yesterday, can be completed anytime before May 22.

Robbie Brown, from Faringdon, will be taking to the water as part of Swim 22 because he has Type 2 diabetes.

The 49-year-old said: "Swimming has been a godsend in helping me manage my diabetes.

"I wanted to help Diabetes UK fund their valuable research and that's how I got into swimming.

"Now it's a habit and the health benefits have been incredible.

"It's transformed my life to the point my wife now jokes I'm half-man, half-dolphin.

"My younger brother, who is also diabetic, was so impressed he's now in training to do Swim22 with me next year. It works wonders and I really hope more people join us."

Swimmers can take part either individually or as part of a team.

Diabetes UK will send all participants a welcome pack to get started and the charity will provide support along the way.

Seven-times Paralympic gold medal-winning swimmer Sascha Kindred said: "One of the great things about Swim22 is that you don't need to be a champion swimmer to take part.

"It's a fantastic way to keep fit, have some family fun, get to know your workmates better or set yourself an individual challenge.

"Swimming 22 miles in three months will give you a great sense of personal achievement, and will boost Diabetes UK's vital research, campaigning, education and support."

• Sascha Kindred with his medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics

With your help you can go to the ball

Support the Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year – Play2Give

A DIDCOT-BASED charity now in its 10th year is hoping to raise £10,000 in funds to aid local charities but needs help in funding a one of a kind charitable event.

Award-winning Play2Give (P2G), our charity of the year, plans to raise the funds through a series of events including a special celebration ball, which will help with fundraising for the Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire.

The group will host its black tie anniversary ball to raise cash for both charities and to celebrate the organisation's milestone year, on September 29.

The ball, hosted at Didcot Civic Centre, will feature a disco, photo booth raffle and three-course meal as part of the evening's entertainment.

To help with the fundraising the organisation is in need of a local company's help to fund the cost of the event to the tune of £2,000.

P2G's £10k appeal will help the children's hospital raise £2million towards new parental accommodation as well as new play areas and specialist equipment.

It will also aid Headway Oxfordshire's final push to raise its last £10k to create the county's first neurological physiotherapy gym in the voluntary sector for the rehabilitation of brain injured patients.

Over the course of a decade, the charity has already raised £55,670 for a catalogue of local causes, and over £40,000 for the Children's Hospital since 2003.

The group were also awarded Supporter of the Year Award from the Oxfird University Hospitals NHS Trust last December in recognition of their support for the children's hospital.

Andrew Baker, the charity's founder, was a former patient at the hospital after suffering a brain injury at birth and undergoing brain surgery aged 12.

He was inspired by the treatment he received and has since dedicated himself to raise money for local charities including the hospital.

Since then, he has also earned the title of Oxfordshire Youth Award in 2013.

If you are a local business looking to explore the range of sponsorship opportunities, email play2give@hotmail.com

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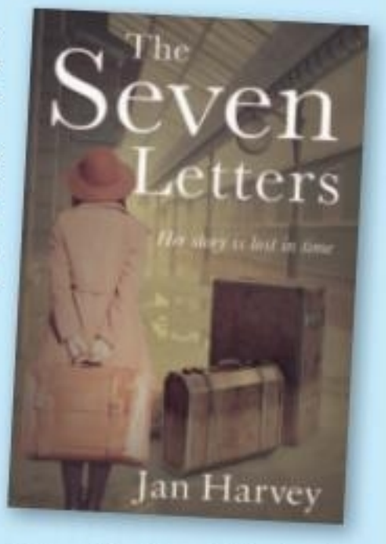

AN OXFORDSHIRE author is "elated" after publishing her first novel - four years after putting pen to paper.

Jan Harvey will be signing copies of her debut novel, The Seven Letters, at The Tea Set Café, Chipping Norton, on Thursday, March 2, from 6pm to 8pm.

The book, which has already received 50 five star reviews by Amazon readers, is set in The Cotswolds and Paris and tells the story of a female Resistance fighter who is sent to spy on the German High Command .

Mrs Harvey, who lives in Shipton-under-Wychwood, near Chipping Norton, said: "The Seven Letters comes from my interest in the Resistance which grew out of my ongoing love of old black and white films.

"When I came to write the novel I discovered that the luxurious brothels in Paris had been taken over by the German High Command and thought how interesting it would be to put my main character, a young female resistance operative, inside one, undercover."

The 55-year-old who also runs women's business networking group Chippy Lippy, said she was "elated" to have the novel published and has already started on a second.

She said: "It is been a long road and I have had to do a lot of research, but all my findings on what is a little known aspect of World War Two came together when I began writing.

"The reviews have been tremendous and I have had over 50 five star reviews on Amazon since the launch in November."

The Seven Letters is for sale from March 2 as a paperback from all outlets or online.

For more information, go to janharveyauthor.com.

Guard at library after anti-social behaviour

By Samantha McGregor

• *A security guard is in place after "problems" at the library*

A SECURITY guard has been posted at Bicester Library after a series of anti-social behaviour incidents.

It comes after teenagers visited the library and caused problems for staff.

Details of what the anti-social behaviour entailed has not been released.

But Oxfordshire County Council said the security guard would be in place until the "problems are resolved".

The move comes less than a year after the library moved from cramped facilities in Old Place Yard to a spacious purpose built library in Franklins House, Pioneer Square, the final part of the £70million town centre redevelopment.

Some people took to social media to raise their concerns.

One resident wrote on Facebook that she was "shocked" the library had to "employ a full-time security guard following 'incidents'".

While another woman said: "I'm a member of a reading group that meets at the library. We arrived for our meeting to find the library was closing early due to staff shortages.

"Apparently they've had so much anti-social behaviour that they can't operate with less than three members of staff and on this particular evening they didn't have the minimum number.

"It's very sad that due to the appalling behaviour of a small number of people we cannot use this wonderful facility.

"I hope the security guard will deter the perpetrators."

A spokesman for Oxfordshire County Council said: "There have been some issues relating to teenage anti-social behaviour in Bicester recently and the library has experienced some of this.

"We have a security guard on duty temporarily until the problems are resolved.

"Police are very much aware and have been very helpful to the library service."

A security guard is permanently on duty at Oxford Central Library and there are security guards at other libraries nationwide.

But this is the first time Bicester Library has needed extra security.

Last April, the library moved to five-storey Franklins House which is also home to a 53-bedroom Travelodge hotel, offices, Cherwell District Council's office and shop and restaurants.

News Bites

Robbery appeal

BANBURY: A teenager was punched in the face and had cash stolen after a robbery in Spiceball Park.

Police said the 18-year-old man was walking on the footpath near the skateboard ramps when he was approached by a man who threatened him and demanded his property.

A woman was with the robber but walked away just before the incident.

Call 101 with information.

Market fun

THAME: The weekly Thame Tuesday Market is set to host a string of community events over the coming months.

The first will take place on Shrove Tuesday – pancake day – while others including carnival crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt and summer community day are also planned.

Transport plan

THAME: A public meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 28, to discuss the transport plan for Thame.

Held in the Upper Chamber at Thame Town Hall from 6.30pm, the meeting will discuss walking and cycling, public transport, traffic management and travel issues associated with upcoming projects in the town.

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Couple says adopting siblings was 'most rewarding thing we've done'

By Eva Astreinidou

A CHARITY that helps parents and children come together is searching for adopters who could provide a 'forever family' for groups of siblings who need to stay together.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports families across the south east through adoption, therapeutic support and community projects.

The charity is particularly looking for adopters who can enable siblings to stay together.

Five-year-old Sophie, three-year-old Ben and two-year-old Amy were adopted by Oxfordshire couple Louise and Tom in 2011 through the charity.

The couple adopted because they were unable to have their own children.

Louise, who said she and Tom were keen to adopt more than one child, said: "Being able to bring them back together was such an important thing for us."

Louise said that they received post-adoption support from the charity that meant that they could deal with the logistical challenges of adopting and caring for three children.

She added: "Every day was, and still is, a challenge. But we are just a regular family getting on with life and enjoying ourselves. We would not change it for the world."

Harry and his wife Claire adopted three siblings, all under four years old, through PACT in 2016.

Harry, from Oxford, will be running the London Marathon this April to raise funds and awareness for PACT. He said: "To adopt a sibling group of three has been the toughest and single most rewarding thing my wife and I have done.

"Our children have been kept together which in turn has helped with their transition to our family. Seeing their smiling, excited faces when I come home from work or get off early and pick them up from school is more than I had ever dreamed of."

Jonathan and Katherine, from Banbury, adopted three sisters in 2013.

Katherine said: "We are fortunate to be able to give a home to these three lovely girls. Now we have such a strong bond with them, they are part of our family and it's a privilege to be their mum."

PACT chief executive Jan Fishwick said: "Finding adopters with the skills and space for three children is crucial so that brothers and sisters, who have often had an unsettled enough start to their life, can be adopted and stay together with a new forever family.

"As is the case for all our adopted families, we will support families who have adopted three children for life through our specialist support and therapeutic services."

There are currently more than 2,000 children waiting to be adopted in England, many of them are in sibling groups of two or more.

The charity run adoption information evenings where anyone considering adoption can find out more. The next session will be in London on March 16.

• *Kathryn Rossiter, CEO of Thrive (back row, second from left) with Jonathan Tew, Notcutts Oxford centre manager and Sam Mallett, Notcutts Oxford outdoor manager Thrive client gardeners Arron, Emma and Amelia*

Funds grow to help charity Thrive

A GARDEN centre in Nuneham Courtenay has raised over £1,000 for a charity that helps disabled and disadvantaged people through gardening.

Colleagues and customers at Notcutts Garden Centre have clubbed together to raise £1,020.75 for Reading-based charity Thrive by hosting a series of flower arranging masterclasses that attracted almost 200 people.

Notcutts centre manager Jonathan Tew said: "I am delighted our flower masterclass events were such a success.

"Not only were they lots of fun but they also raised money to support the incredible work that Thrive do.

"Gardening is a fantastic hobby and for many people can help improve their physical and mental health in a very positive way."

Kathryn Rossiter, CEO of Thrive, thanked Notcutts for their "wonderful donation".

She added: "The money will be spent on supporting our client gardeners and I am delighted that Notcutts have been able to see us in action when they visited our gardens at Beech Hill to make the donation and were given a tour."

Notcutts has supported Thrive for two years through a range of fundraising activities at all 18 centres nationwide, as well as through the Charles Notcutt Memorial Bursary, which enables students to complete an award in social and therapeutic horticulture.

Pupils dig planting their own wood with help from charity

By Eva Astreinidou

SCHOOLCHILDREN can plant their own wood through a local charity initiative aiming to promote the importance of woodland on wildlife-friendly land.

The Wychwood Project helped pupils at the Windrush Valley School in Ascott-under-Wychwood establish their own woodland.

The Wychwood Project, working in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers' I Dig Trees programme, helped pupils from 5 to 11 years old to plant their own wood.

The school provides lessons for all its pupils at the conservation centre run by Rob Gripper on his family's Manor Farm in the village.

Pupils work in a purpose-built classroom but also spend half their time studying outdoors.

Wychwood Project director, Sharon Williams, said: "We are delighted to be able to help children of all ages to get directly involved in conservation. If young people learn to appreciate early the part they can play sustaining our wonder filled natural world, we hope they will go on caring for our environment throughout their lives.

"This work complements our History Box initiative with West Oxfordshire Primary Schools, which explains the history of Wychwood Forest through the lives of local families."

The Wychwood Project is a conservation charity that is active across 120 square miles and 41 parishes, largely in West Oxfordshire.

It manages four conservation areas; Foxburrow Wood, Grimes Meadow, Woodstock water meadows and Wigwell Nature Reserve.

The charity aims to raise awareness and appreciation for the history and identity of Wychwood, as well as help restore the landscape and encourage bio-diversity.

The charity is also responsible for animal conservation through its work on the barn owl project, coordinating visits to new sites to explore nest box possibilities for the well-known birds whose numbers have seen a significant decline due to the loss of hunting habitats.

The organisation hosts a 'forest fair', an annual fundraising event held in September that celebrates the diversity and richness of the natural world and raises awareness of the local wildlife and landscape conservation work of the Wychwood Project.

• Pupils from Windrush Valley School plant the trees for their wood - Pictures: Sharon Williams

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Forrest Gump runner back on the road again

By Samantha McGregor

FUNDRAISING runner Ewan Gordon will once again don his Forrest Gump costume – this time to run seven marathons in just one week

In 2015 Mr Gordon, a civil servant, ran 1,050-miles from John O'Groats to Land's End – completing 26 miles on each of the 42 days of his challenge.

This time he plans to run around Oxfordshire to kick start the five year fundraising initiative by the Freemasons of Oxfordshire to raise money for its Masonic Charitable Foundation.

He will complete his first marathon on Saturday, starting at the Kassam Stadium before heading to Witney via Eynsham, Carterton and finishing in Burford.

During the week he will run to Banbury, Woodstock, Bicester, Oxford, Thame, Henley, Caversham, East Ilsley, Wantage, Faringdon, before finishing in Carterton.

Mr Gordon, Master of Theodore Lodge 8943 which meets in Bicester, has been running dressed as Forrest Gump for three years.

In the 1994 film, the title character, played by Tom Hanks, ran across America.

Mr Gordon said: "From February 25 to March 3, I will be running around the county of Oxfordshire

• *Fundraising marathon runner Ewan hopes to raise cash to benefit Oxfordshire's charities*

in support of a five year fundraising campaign for the Masonic Charitable Foundation amongst the Freemasons of Oxfordshire.

"The Province of Oxfordshire starts its Fundraising Festival 2022 with a gala dinner at the Kassam Stadium on February 24. The following day, I start the run."

Graham Ellis, of Oxfordshire Freemasons, said: "Ewan's run will coincide with the launch to highlight the start of the festival.

"Ewan has been involved for a number of years with raising significant amounts of money for charities through his running.

"His efforts really embrace what the spirit of freemasonry is, which includes helping to contribute to the local community."

Among the Oxfordshire charities who have received donations from the Freemason's charity include Alzheimer's Research UK, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and Ley Community Project, who have shared £200,000 in the past year.

Mr Gordon ran the John O'Groat's to Land's End challenge in memory of nine-year-old Thomas Laurie, from Bicester, who died in 2014 from Cockayne Syndrome - a rare premature ageing condition.

That run raised more than £9,000 for three charities that supported Thomas and his family: Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters, Helen and Douglas House, and Amy and Friends, a Cockayne Syndrome support group.

Sounds of music

PUPILS from a Chipping Norton school transported guests to the rolling hills of Austria in a production of The Sound of Music.

Following months of rehearsals, Kingham Hill School students from Years 8 to 13 put on three performances of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical to packed audiences.

Sixth former Lydia Waldman, 17, starred as Maria, and year 12 pupil James Tanner, 16, played Captain Von Trapp.

The cast got the audience singing along to classic songs from the show including 'Favourite Things', 'Edelweiss' and '16 going on 17'.

Helena Berkeley, Kingham Hill Latin teacher and The Sound of Music director, described the pupils' effort as "incredible".

She said: "I am so proud of all our pupils that took part in the production. From the outset, the pupils have been a joy to direct and their enthusiasm and excitement carried the show along.

"The pupils embodied their characters beautifully and conveyed the poignant message of the story excellently.

"The cast described themselves as a family and they really did work together so well, always supporting and encouraging each other.

"I hope that their experience of being a part of this show is something that will live with them forever."

News Bites

Appeal after assault

BICESTER: Police are appealing for witnesses after a woman was sexually assaulted in Bicester.

The woman, who is in her 30s, was walking in Chapel Street, last Thursday at about 8.50pm, when a man spoke to her and sexually assaulted her, said police.

He is described as in his late 20s to early 30s, about 5ft 7ins to 5ft 9ins tall, had stubble on his chin and was wearing a black hooded jumper and dark trousers.

Call 101 with information.

Pub taken over

BICESTER: Oxfordshire pub group House of Jacob have taken over the lease on Bicester-based hotel, The Plough, in North Street.

The group, founded by Damion Farah and Johnny Pugsley, already run Wolvercote based Jacobs Inn, Jacobs & Field in Headington, nearby Jacobs Chop House and hotel The Woodstock Arms.

Mr Pugsley said: "We always knew we wanted a presence in Bicester so it was a no brainer to get the lease on The Plough."

Music festival

THAME: A club is hosting its first ever festival of live music to promote local talent and live music.

The First Thursday Music Club has teamed up with Thame Town Council to stage a free, multi-venue, not-for-profit live music festival on Saturday, July 8, from noon to 10.30pm.

A main stage will be built in the carpark in High Street and will feature a range of local and national acts. There will also be other venues around the town.

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You can see the 'doll' in the picture below- a 6" high wooden skittle, sitting on a swivelled post 2' 6" above the ground.
Just behind the doll is a canvas backdrop to catch the incoming stick.
A painted bullseye helps you aim at the doll.

The stick is a wooden baton 18" long and 2" or less in diameter. Its weight varies between 1-2lb according to the player's preference.
You stand 30 feet away, behind a throwing line and throw each of your six sticks in turn at the doll. Games are the best of three legs followed by a fourth leg 'for beer'. The emphasis is on sportsmanship and fun.
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www.bamptonauntsally.org

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Puzzles

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Quick Clues Across

1 Suffocate (7)
5 Turkish official (5)
8 Shortly (4)
9 American game (8)
10 Large character (7,6)
13 Half (4)
14 Ponder (4)
17 Cameramen (13)
19 Ambitious person (8)
20 Lend (4)
21 Aspects (5)
22 Speak to (7)

Quick Clues Down

2 Lunatic (6)
3 Can be stretched (7)
4 Including (9)
5 Fragment (5)
6 US west coast port (7)
7 Enticed (7)
11 Thrashed (9)
12 Revokes (7)
13 Bent forward (7)
15 Learned person (7)
16 Reveries (6)
18 Man-eating monsters (5)

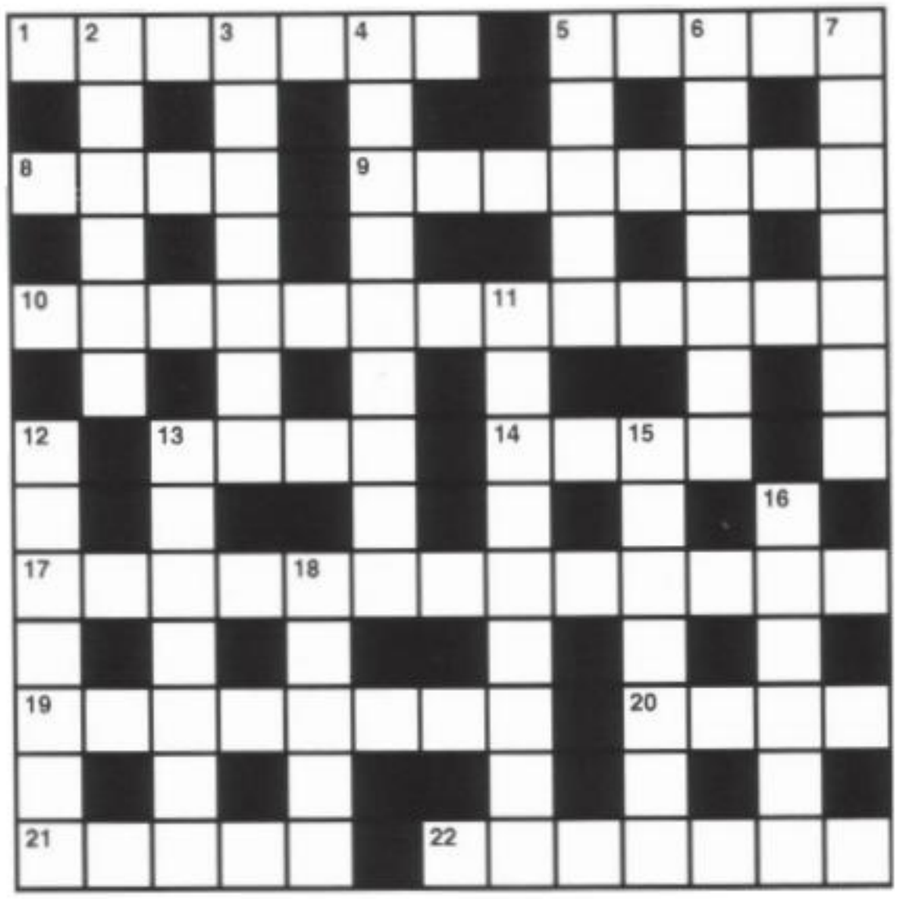
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Are in a cosy place, as close as possible (7)
5 Pipes that begin with a bath (5)
8 Spirit shown after biting the dust (4)
9 Cured by taking half the medicine in a pipe (8)
10 Can Latin start on the other side of the ocean? (13)
13 An insular jumble of lies (4)
14 Piano teacher hides part of the keyboard (4)
17 Lists the Italian river on nearly full measure (13)
19 Little scientist, to right the wrong, should find food
20 Grope for the sole prize? (4)
21 Unhappily put the slogan in a cunning framework (5)
22 Take less; it isn't worth much (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Goes the wrong way round or makes mistakes (6)
3 Circles round at grades (7)
4 Rare stems for flags (9)
5 At the different Greek character (5)
6 A bit of a brush with a broken blister (7)
7 Cocktail on a motor bike? (7)
11 Dons enrol for the capital life in England (9)
12 Swears at trials (7)
13 I note well that the road is badly made for the engine (9)
15 Though out of order, the lute with fun can be melodious (7)
16 Gives oath that heals round head of sore (6)
18 All for oriental warning light (5)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

4	6	2	1					
	3			4	7		8	
5			9	2		4		
		4		1		8	2	
	9	6		3				9
1	9			4		6		
		6	9		3	5		
	7	8					5	1

9		7				2		5
	8					6		
	3		9		7		8	
	6		4		1			
	2		5		6		4	
		8		2		5		
	1		3		9		7	
	5					1		
6		4				3		9

7				1				
2		8						
5	1				3			
		3	2			6	7	
	9		5		4		8	
	7	1			8	5		
			4				5	6
							9	8
				6				2

This week's solutions

4	6	2	1	7	8	3	9	5
9	1	3	5	6	4	7	2	8
5	8	7	3	9	2	1	4	6
3	5	4	7	1	6	9	8	2
2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1	4
1	9	8	2	4	5	6	3	7
8	2	5	6	3	1	4	7	9
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
6	3	9	4	2	7	8	5	1

9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5
4	8	1	2	3	5	9	6	7
2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8	1
5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3
1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9	6
8	1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4
3	5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9

7	4	6	9	1	2	8	3	5
2	3	8	7	5	6	4	9	1
5	1	9	8	4	3	2	6	7
8	5	3	2	9	1	6	7	4
6	9	2	5	7	4	1	8	3
4	7	1	6	3	8	5	2	9
1	2	7	4	8	9	3	5	6
3	6	5	1	2	7	9	4	8
9	8	4	3	6	5	7	1	2

Quick Crossword

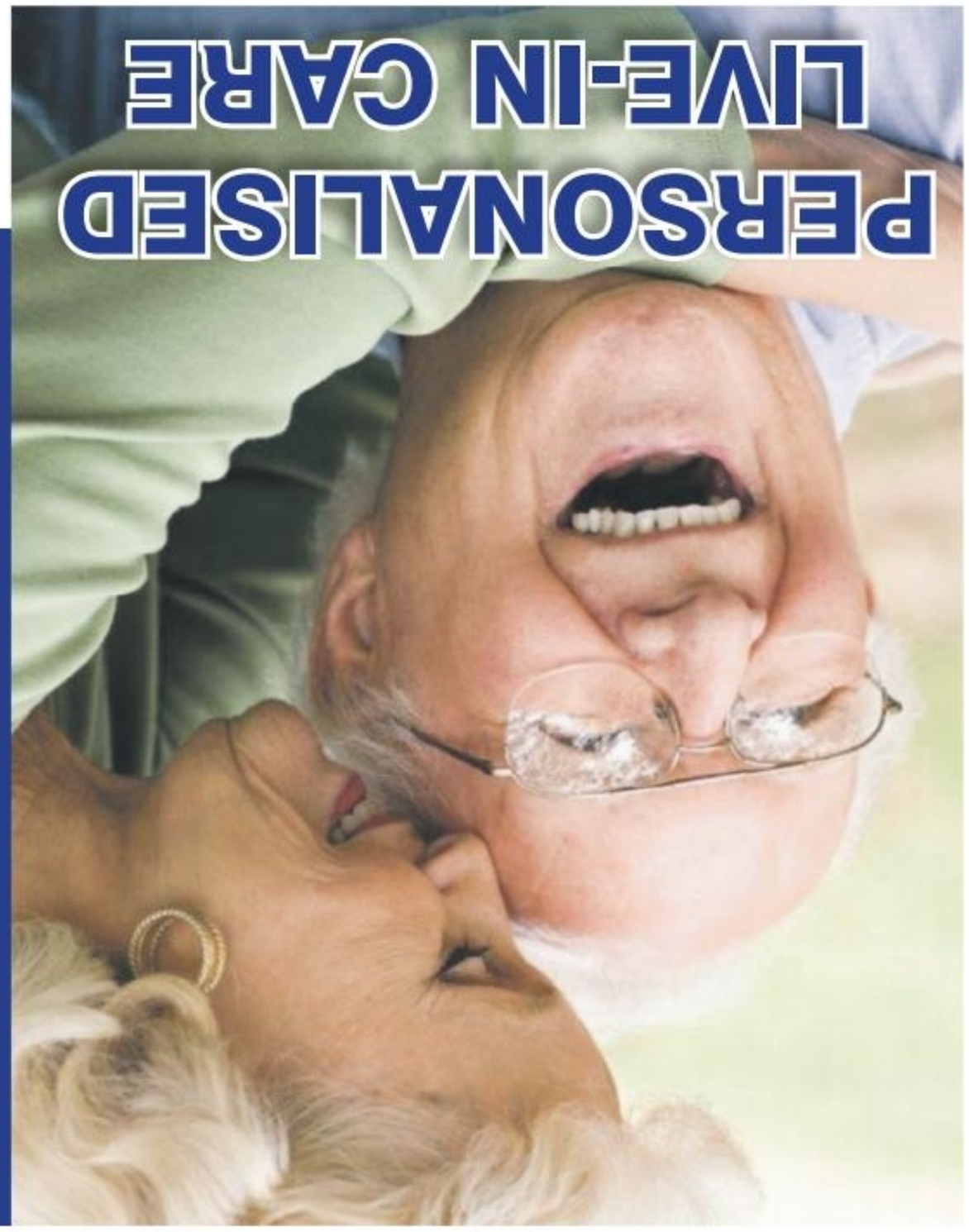
Across: 1 Smother 5 Pasha 8 Anon 9 Baseball 10 Capital letter 13 Semi 14 Muse 17 Photographers 19 Aspirant 20 Loan 21 Sides 22 Address

Down: 2 Maniac 3 Tensile 4 Embracing 5 Piece 6 Seattle 7 Allured 11 Lambasted 12 Repeals 13 Stooped 15 Scholar 16 Dreams 18 Ogres

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Nearest 5 Tubes 8 Grit 9 Remedied 10 Transatlantic 13 Isle 14 Note 17 Tablespoonful 19 Scavenge 20 Fish 21 Sadly 22 Useless

Down: 2 Errors 3 Ratings 4 Streamers 5 Theta 6 Bristle 7 Sidecar11 Londoners 12 Attests 13 Inboard 15 Tuneful 16 Curses 18 Every



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Inspired by the Oscar® winning MGM film, *An American In Paris* features many of George and Ira Gershwin's timelessly popular songs and music, including I Got Rhythm, I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise, The Man I Love, They Can't Take That Away From Me and 'S Wonderful.

Featuring its original, award-winning Broadway stars, and an exceptional company of 50 actors, dancers and musicians, *An American In Paris* tells the story of a young American soldier striving to make it as a painter in the aftermath of war.

Following a chance encounter with a beautiful young dancer, the 'City of Light' becomes the backdrop to a sensuous, modern romance of art, friendship and love.

Staged by some of the most celebrated theatre-makers in the world (including director and choreographer Christopher Wheeldon and designer Bob Crowley, together with the writer Craig Lucas), don't miss this breathtakingly beautiful production that The New York Times called "a dazzling, transporting musical that turns Paris into a kaleidoscope of romance".

Closing date: Tuesday, February 28

Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Rd, London W1T 7AQ .

Previews start from 4th March 2017

We have teamed up with An American in Paris to offer our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to one of the preview performances.

Win tickets

There are x3 pairs of tickets to be won. To be in with a chance of winning one just answer the following simple question:

Q: Who starred in the original film of An American in Paris?

Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly or Frank Sinatra ?

Prize tickets are valid Monday-Thursday from 6th-20th March 2017, strictly subject to availability. Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to

www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

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For more information visit:
https://www.anamericaninparisthemusical.co.uk

How do you like YOUR eggs in a morning?

The Farmhouse Kitchen is the restaurant next to the Farm Shop at Millets Farm in Frilford, just a hop and a skip from the A34 at Abingdon. But what makes The Farmhouse Kitchen worthy of a visit you may ask?

Forget the fact that there is ample FREE parking all over the site, forget the fact that there are many retail distractions on site with the Farm Shop, Garden Centre, Soame Interiors and many more to help you browse away your time at Millets!

The Farmhouse Kitchen is worthy of a visit as when it opens at 9am each and every day, breakfast is served in so many different ways and in some way the "egg" is the star as they will cook it to your liking!

You may be a Full English Breakfast lover, or prefer the lighter Cottage Breakfast where you chose the five items you want! Or a favourite of our regulars is the Farmer's Roll packing in bacon, sausage and a fried egg in our homemade Millets Bap!

Simplicity is key to a great breakfast and our Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs is a delicate offering whilst scrambled eggs on toast, simple toast & jam or a pick from our continental pastries may be more your preference?

But for me the menu comes alive with classics like Eggs Royale (smoked salmon, poached eggs with Hollandaise sauce on a homemade toasted muffin) Eggs Benedict (honey roast ham) or Eggs Florentine (steamed spinach) all of which are cooked to order and served with poached eggs and Hollandaise.

Looking forward to breakfast now?

Daren Fisher – Millets Farm.

Oxfordshire Guardian Reader travel

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View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/AKD273

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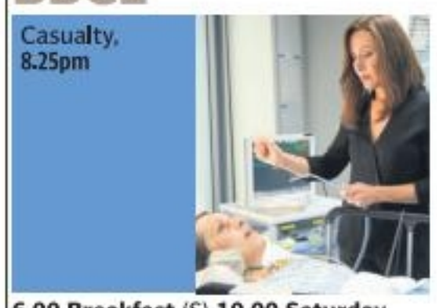
Saturday February 25th

DAYTIME

BBC1



6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S) **4.30 Final Score** (S) **5.10 BBC News** (S) **5.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **5.30 Celebrity Mastermind** (S)(R) **6.00 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **6.45 Let It Shine** (S)

7

8
8.25 Casualty Steph tries to kill herself. (S)

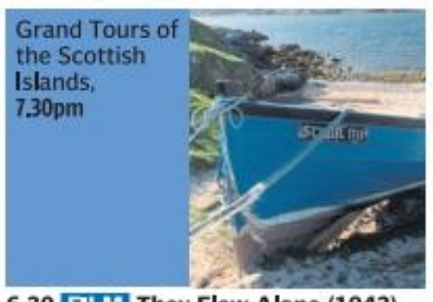
9
9.15 Taboo James Delaney confronts Sir Stuart Strange with the cold, hard truth, and plans his escape. However, the Crown has one final, deadly move to make. Last in the series. (S)

10
10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)

11
11.50 This Country Kerry and Kurtan eagerly await the release of their uncle, Steve "Nugget" Nuggins. (S)

AFTER 12
12.15 FILM Return from the River Kwai (1988) (15) Second World War drama sequel, starring Chris Penn. (S)
1.50 Weather for the Week Ahead (S)
1.55 BBC News (S)

BBC2



6.30 FILM They Flew Alone (1942) (U) (S) **8.10 FILM In Which We Serve (1942) (U)** (S) **10.00 Britain's Secret Seas 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer 12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry 1.00 FILM Waterloo (1970) (U)** (S) **3.10 Natural World** (S)(R) **4.00 Mastermind** (S)(R) **4.30 University Challenge** (S)(R) **5.00 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.30 The House That £100K Built** (S)(R) **6.30 Flog It!** (S)(R)

7.30 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands Paul Murton journeys around the coast of the Long Island of Harris and Lewis. (S)

8.00 Diana: Designing a Princess The most impressive dresses from the wardrobe of Diana, Princess of Wales. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army (S)(R)

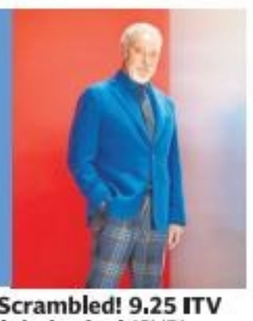
9.00 FILM My Old Lady (2014) (12) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Maggie Smith and Kevin Kline. (S)

10.45 QI XL With Matt Lucas, Lucy Porter and Ross Noble. (S)

11.30 FILM Albert Nobbs (2011) (15) Drama, with Glenn Close and Mia Wasikowska. (S)

1.15 FILM Youth Without Youth (2007) (15) Drama, starring Tim Roth. (S) **3.15** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV



6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Alphabetical** (S)(R) **10.25 Guess This House** (S)(R) **11.25 Off Their Rockers** (S)(R) **11.55 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.00 FILM Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995) (U)** (S) **1.50 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.50 The Chase** (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **4.00 ITV News** (S) **4.15 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway New series. The presenter duo's weekend variety show returns. (S)

8.30 The Voice UK The talent contest moves into the Battle phase. (S)

10.30 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.45 FILM The Boat That Rocked (2009) (15) Richard Curtis's comedy, with Bill Nighy and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (S)

11.35 FILM Surrogates (2009) (12) Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis and Radha Mitchell. (S)

1.10 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

Channel 4

6.20 Mobil 1 The Grid (S) **6.45 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **11.00 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast** (S)(R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Grand Designs** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 Penelope Keith's Favourite Villages The actress travels around Britain, visiting villages in different parts of the country. (S)(R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys Timothy West and Prunella Scales venture into the open sea. (S)(R)

9.00 FILM Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (2014) (12) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Andy Serkis and Jason Clarke. (S)

11.35 FILM Surrogates (2009) (12) Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis and Radha Mitchell. (S)

1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **2.05 Hollyoaks** (S) **4.15** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (S)(R) **4.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **5.20** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.40 Access** Showbiz news and gossip. (S) **10.45 Police Interceptors Unleashed** (S)(R) **11.15 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.15 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole** (S)(R) **3.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **5.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords** (S)(R) **6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles The team hunts down a device that could destroy Los Angeles. (S)

8.00 NCIS DiNozzo must help old flame Jeanne Benoit rescue her kidnapped husband. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's Championship games. (S)

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (S)
10.30 Stealing the Mona Lisa (S)

11.30 Police Interceptors Unleashed PC Barry Peach is confronted by a foul-mouthed pensioner. (S)(R)

12.00 SuperCasino 3.10 That's So 1985 (S)(R) **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Nick's Quest (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.10** Emmerdale **8.50** Coronation Street **11.10** Ninja Warrior UK **12.10** Take Me Out **1.25** The Brit Awards 2017 **3.55** FILM: Step Up 3 (2010) (12) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** FILM: Step Up 3 (2010) (12) Concluded. **6.05** FILM: Jack and Jill (2011) (PG) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** FILM: Jack and Jill (2011) (PG) Concluded. **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** FILM: American Pie (1999) (15) Coming-of-age comedy, with Jason Biggs. **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** FILM: American Pie (1999) (15) Concluded. **11.00** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **12.55** FILM: Couples Retreat (2009) (15) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** FILM: Couples Retreat (2009) (15) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Murder, She Wrote **8.45** FILM: Hidden Treasure (2001) Drama, starring John Thaw. **10.50** Inspector Morse **1.05** FILM: Carry On Cleo (1964) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** FILM: Carry On Cleo (1964) (PG) Concluded. **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.05** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Indian Hill Railways **8.00** Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **9.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **10.00** Timewatch: Captain Cook – The Man Behind the Legend **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Arena: Loretta Lynn – Still a Mountain Girl **1.35** Country Kings at the BBC **2.35** Country Queens at the BBC **3.35** Sounds of the Seventies **3.50** Pop Go the Sixties **3.55** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Young & Hungry **6.45** How I Met Your Mother **7.35** Baby Daddy **8.30** Melissa & Joey **9.30** Young & Hungry **10.30** The Goldbergs **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.15** FILM: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) (U) Comedy, starring Zachary Levi. **3.00** FILM: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Paul (2011) (15) Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.20** Gap Year **3.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** Baby Daddy **4.45** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.35** Homes by the Sea **12.35** Location, Location, Location **1.40** Coast vs Country **2.45** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** The Dambusters' Great Escape: Secret History **9.00** Fatal Flight 447: Chaos in the Cockpit **10.00** The Plane Crash **11.40** 24 Hours in A&E **12.45** Fatal Flight 447: Chaos in the Cockpit **1.50** The Plane Crash **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Violent Men (1955) (PG) Western, starring Edward G Robinson. **12.55** Cutthroat Island (1995) (PG) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis. **3.15** Carry On Cabby (1963) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. **5.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) (PG) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **6.45** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) (PG) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes. **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) (12) Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick. **11.15** It Follows (2014) (15) Horror, starring Maika Monroe. **1.20** The Sixth Sense (1999) (15) Supernatural thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **3.35** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Deadly 60 **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **12.00** Motorway Cops **1.00** The Best of Top Gear **2.00** QI XL **4.00** Storage Hunters UK **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** FILM: Kill Bill: Vol 1 (2003) (18) Martial arts thriller, starring Uma Thurman. **11.10** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **12.10** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **1.10** Not Going Out **2.30** Suits **3.20** Gavin & Stacey **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Tenko **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Tenko **5.00** One Foot in the Grave **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Maisie Raine **9.00** Taggart **11.10** Waking the Dead **1.25** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **2.25** What Remains **3.30** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Are You Smarter Than a 10 Year Old? **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** The Big Spell **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** Football's Funniest Moments **12.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2017 **1.00** Futurama **2.30** Modern Family **5.00** Supergirl **6.00** MacGyver **7.00** FILM: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) (U) Sci-fi prequel, starring Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor. **9.45** Stan Lee's Lucky Man **10.45** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.45** A League of Their Own **12.45** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.45** Police Force: Australia **4.15** Stop, Search, Seize **5.10** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Micro Monsters with David Attenborough **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.30** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **12.05** Real Time with Bill Maher **1.15** High Maintenance **2.25** The Wire **3.35** Looking **4.10** The Guest Wing

W SKY: 109

6.00 Believe **7.00** The Bill **12.00** EastEnders **2.00** Motorway Cops: A Traffic Cops Special **3.00** Bin There, Dump That **3.40** Heston's Fantastical Food **4.40** My Family **6.40** FILM: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) (PG) Children's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **9.00** FILM: Along Came a Spider (2001) (15) Detective thriller prequel, starring Morgan Freeman. **11.00** Grimm **12.00** Traffic Cops **1.20** Million Dollar Intern **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.50** One Foot in the Grave **8.30** To the Manor Born **9.50** Last of the Summer Wine **11.50** The Vicar of Dibley **1.40** Only Fools and Horses **7.40** The Black Adder **8.20** Blackadder Goes Forth **9.00** Not Going Out **11.00** Bottom **12.20** Bottom Live: The Big Number 2 Tour **2.25** Bill Hicks Live: Revelations **3.30** jam **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **7.00** Premier League Legends **8.00** Football Gold **8.30** Premier League Preview **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** Premier League Preview **12.00** Live EFL. Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday (kick-off 12.30pm), overage of the Championship Yorkshire derby, which takes place at Elland Road. **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL. Brighton & Hove Albion v Reading (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** EFL Goals **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League Highlights **1.00** Live Fight Night International. Deontay Wilder v Gerald Washington. **3.30** Premier League Highlights

Sunday February 26th

DAYTIME

BBC1

The Big Painting Challenge, 6pm

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.15 Flog It!** (S)(R) **3.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.35 Shop Well for Less?** (S)(R) **5.35 BBC News** (S) **5.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.00 The Big Painting Challenge** (S)

7

7.00 Countryfile Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Isle of Man. Including weather for the week ahead. (S)

8

8.00 Call the Midwife Valerie treats a pregnant Somali woman who has undergone female genital circumcision. (S)

9

9.00 SS-GB Archer rushes to the rescue after learning of a resistance plan to kidnap his son. (S)

10

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You Extended edition. (S)(R)

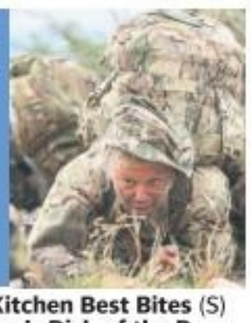
11

11.15 American High School One of the school's few white students throws a birthday party. (S)

AFTER **12**

12.00 The Celebrity Apprentice USA (S) **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.25** BBC News (S)

BBC2



Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week, 9pm

9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) **11.15 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day** (S)(R) **11.45 Nigellissima** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman** (S)(R) **1.30 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **2.15 Wanted Down Under Revisited** (S)(R) **3.00 Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest** (S)(R) **4.00 Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships** (S) **6.00 Six Nations Rugby Union** (S)

7.00 Dragons' Den: Pitches to Riches Richard Osman presents a look back at some of the most memorable contestants to feature on the show. (S)(R)

8.00 Dragons' Den The panel assess the profit-making potential of a Welsh delicacy and a male fragrance. With Evan Davis. Last in the series. (S)

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week The remaining recruits arrive in France to receive training with an elite tactical unit of the French police. (S)

10.00 FILM Life of Crime (2013) (18) Premiere. Two criminals kidnap the wife of a corrupt real-estate tycoon. Comedy, with Jennifer Aniston and Mos Def. (S)

11.35 Women's Six Nations Highlights Action from the third round of fixtures. (S)

12.05 FILM Badlands (1973) (15) Crime drama, starring Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek. (S) **1.35** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.35** Holby City (S)(R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Live Six Nations Rugby Union, 2pm

6.00 CITV 9.25 Countrywise: Guide to Britain (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **10.55 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (S)(R) **11.55 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.00 The Voice UK** The Battle phase begins. (S)(R) **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** England v Italy (kick-off 3.00pm). (S) **5.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 ITV News** (S) **6.00 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera** (S)

7.00 The Voice UK The second night of the Battles phase. (S)

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital A medical case becomes personal for Ram as he prepares to attend a wedding. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 Peston on Sunday Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (S)(R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 16th round of fixtures. (S)

12.20 Phillip Schofield's South African Adventure (S)(R) **12.45** Jackpot247 **3.00** Chopping Block (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

The Jump, 6.30pm

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.25 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **2.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (S)(R) **3.00 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **4.00 Channel 4 News** (S) **4.30 FILM 101 Dalmatians (1996) (U)** Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close. (S) **6.30 The Jump** (S)

8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman New series. The presenter travels along England's greatest rivers. The first episode focuses on the Tweed. (S)

9.00 Homeland Keane is left on the sidelines, while Carrie's work starts to impact on her home life. (S)

10.00 Gogglebox The amateur critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week as the popular series returns for its ninth run. (S)(R)

11.00 FILM Clear and Present Danger (1994) (12) Action thriller, with Harrison Ford and Willem Dafoe. (S)

1.30 The Last Leg (S)(R) **2.30** Hoarder SOS (S)(R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **4.20** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (S)(R) **4.40** Four in a Bed (S)(R) **5.10** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

The EFL Cup Final Highlights: Football on 5, 8.15pm

10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.45 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **11.40 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **12.10 Inside Windsor Castle** (S)(R) **1.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh** (S)(R) **2.10 FILM No Reservations (2007) (PG)** (S) **4.10 FILM Bride Wars (2009) (12)** (S) **5.55 5 News Weekend** (S) **6.00 FILM The Fifth Element (1997) (PG)** (S)

8.15 The EFL Cup Final Highlights: Football on 5 Manchester United v Southampton. (S)

9.00 FILM Olympus Has Fallen (2013) (15) Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm. (S)

11.15 FILM The Terminator (1984) (15) Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton. (S)

1.15 SuperCasino 3.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh (S)(R) **4.00** Witches: A Century of Murder (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Nick's Quest (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.35** The Voice UK **10.35** Coronation Street **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.10** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.45** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.05** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.35** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** The Hot Desk: Jonas Blue **3.05** FILM: The Smurfs 2 (2013) (U) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Hank Azaria. **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** FILM: The Smurfs 2 (2013) (U) Concluded. **5.10** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.45** FILM: Kindergarten Cop (1990) (12) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** FILM: Kindergarten Cop (1990) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.25** Heartbeat **8.20** Murder, She Wrote **10.30** Inspector Morse **3.10** FILM: Carry On Girls (1973) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** FILM: Carry On Girls (1973) (PG) Concluded. **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05** FILM: Carry On Cleo (1964) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** FILM: Carry On Cleo (1964) (PG) Concluded. **1.00** Inspector Morse **2.55** May the Best House Win **4.35** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Sound of Song **8.00** South Downs: England's Mountains Green **9.00** FILM: Two Days, One Night (2014) (15) Premiere. Drama, starring Marion Cotillard. **10.30** FILM: Hockney (2014) (15) Documentary about artist David Hockney. **12.15** Treasures of the Louvre **1.45** Order and Disorder with Jim Al-Khalili **2.45** South Downs: England's Mountains Green **3.45** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.20** How I Met Your Mother **7.05** Melissa & Joey **8.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Coach Trip: Road to Marbs – Final Week **12.05** Coach Trip: Road to Marbs: Final Week **1.15** The Jump **2.55** The Goldbergs **4.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.55** FILM: Men in Black 3 (2012) (PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** FILM: Red (2010) (12) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt, and reunites his old hit squad to find out who wants them dead. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. **12.15** Celebs Go Dating **3.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.55** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Coast vs Country **10.00** Building the Dream **11.00** Vet on the Hill **12.00** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Nazi Megastructures. The Blitzkrieg tactics employed by German forces in the Second World War. **9.00** Father Ted **11.05** Small, Far Away: The World of Father Ted. A road trip originally made to mark the comedy's 15th anniversary. **12.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.20** Father Ted **2.20** Nazi Megastructures **3.20** Food Unwrapped **3.50** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Colditz Story (1954) (U) Second World War drama, starring John Mills. **1.00** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **3.15** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) (PG) Family adventure, starring Jessica Alba. **4.55** 12 Angry Men (1957) (U) Legal drama, starring Henry Fonda. **6.50** The Three Musketeers (2011) (12) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **9.00** GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) (12) Action adventure sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson. **11.10** Killing Them Softly (2012) (18) Crime thriller, starring Brad Pitt. **1.00** The Running Man (1987) (18) Sci-fi action adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **3.05** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.00 The Best of Top Gear **8.50** Top Gear: Polar Challenge **9.50** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **10.50** Traffic Cops **11.50** Jay Leno's Garage **1.50** Top Gear **2.50** FILM: Dragnet (1987) (PG) Spoof crime drama, starring Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks. **5.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **6.00** The Best of Top Gear **8.00** Top Gear: Polar Challenge **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Suits **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.30** Room 101 **1.10** Dave Gorman Goodish Hits **2.10** The Last Man on Earth **2.40** Suits **3.25** Crackanory **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 New Tricks **8.00** The Bill **12.00** Northanger Abbey **2.00** FILM: Persuasion (1995) (U) Jane Austen romance, starring Amanda Root. **4.00** Catherine Cookson's Colour Blind **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.50** FILM: Persuasion (1995) (U) Jane Austen romance, starring Amanda Root. **3.35** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Life **7.30** Futurama **9.00** Supergirl **10.00** Rugby's Funniest Moments **11.00** WWE Raw Hlts **12.00** Futurama **2.00** Modern Family **5.00** The Simpsons **5.30** The Big Spell **6.30** The Simpsons **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Air Ambulance ER **2.00** Arrow **2.50** Police Force: Australia **5.15** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Fortitude **10.00** Billions **11.10** True Detective **12.30** Marathon: The Patriots Day Bombing **2.45** The Wire **4.00** The Guest Wing

W SKY: 109

6.15 Believe **7.10** Your Home in Their Hands **8.30** James Martin: Yorkshire's Finest **9.00** MasterChef USA **1.00** Traffic Cops **2.20** Doctor Who **4.00** My Family **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** Honey I Bought the House **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Lenny Henry **10.00** Sherlock **12.00** Code Black **1.00** Million Dollar Intern **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.50** One Foot in the Grave **8.30** To the Manor Born **11.10** Only Fools and Horses **9.10** Not Going Out **11.00** The Thick of It **12.20** Limmy's Show **1.40** House of Fools **2.50** jam **3.15** French and Saunders **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Highlights **10.00** The Sunday Supplement **11.00** Goals on Sunday **1.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Tottenham Hotspur v Stoke City (kick-off 1.30pm). **3.45** Live EFL Cup Final. Manchester United v Southampton (kick-off 4.30pm). **7.00** Haye v Bellew: The Gloves Are Off **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Villarreal v Real Madrid (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Premier League Highlights **10.30** EFL Cup Final **11.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Premier League Highlights **1.00** EFL Cup Final **2.00** Goals on Sunday **3.00** Premier League Highlights **3.30** EFL Cup Final **4.30** Premier League Highlights **5.00** EFL Cup Final

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Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

A scent of Spring from a daffodil

One of the most quoted poems of all time, I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth, describes how the loneliness of a cold and wet winter in the Lake District was cured by a field of daffodils dancing in the wind on the bank of the lake Ullswater.

There's something heart-warming about the first glimpse of a daffodil on a grass verge or in a hedgerow, a tantalising reminder of the golden glow of the sun and a promise of that spring is on its way to bring some brightness to the bleak winter countryside. It's one of the first plants to bloom in spring, and marks the return of flowering plants to gardens after winter hibernation, and because of this the Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity uses the daffodil as a metaphor for bringing life to other people through charitable giving, and across the UK in March you'll see people are wearing daffodils on their lapels.

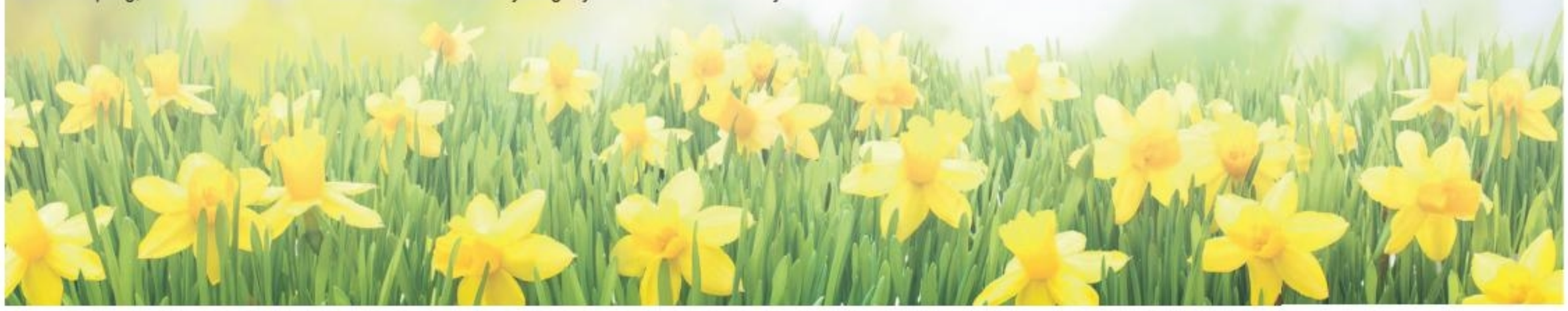
A vase of flowers on the windowsill, and the crisp fresh scents of spring air for many people bring back memories of years gone by. Just the hint of a scent or perfume from the past can instantly trigger memories from a childhood long ago, or you might be immediately transported back in time to a much younger you.

Does the scent of a newborn baby, for example, remind you of the days when your own children were young?

Our sense of smell is one of the most powerful senses we possess, and the most evocative – yet while we rely so much on what we see and hear day-in day-out, it is rare to actually think about the smells we are experiencing. That doesn't mean we aren't storing these aromas in our memory banks! The olfactory bulb in the brain's limbic system which registers smell is very closely related to memory, and scientific research has shown that the link in our brains between memory and smell is more direct than that between memory and the other senses. Smells become a part of emotional memories, can be a powerful memory stimulant and can be used to retrieve long-term memories and emotional responses otherwise lost to the conscious mind. It's often a useful way to trigger happy emotions or the feeling of comfort.

And smells can unlock new memories in a person's mind. Just as the smell of gingerbread, oranges, and cinnamon can conjure up a festive feeling, a soap from the 1950s, the scent a person's mum wore when they were small, herbs and spices or the flowers from a childhood garden can all unearth rich warm memories that have previously been locked away. This can be particularly poignant when a person suffers from memory loss, so next time you are visiting an elderly or house-bound friend or relative, think about taking an olfactory surprise – it can be a great trigger for conversations and reminiscences in the most unlikely candidates!

Esther Lafferty, *Day and Nightcare Assistance*



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PROPERTY WEEKLY

Thursday, February 23 - Wednesday, M

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This property showcased courtesy of Davis Tate Wantage

Refurbished Wantage home

A stunning refurbishment in the heart of Wantage has gone on the market.

Finished to an exacting standard, this high quality property benefits from an integrated kitchen with 'Rangemaster' electric range oven, separate utility with WC, two generous bedrooms and newly fitted bathroom with bath and separate corner shower.

It has double glazing, new carpets and a new gas central heating system plus a garden, and is sold with no onward chain.

The new front door leads

• *Continues on page 50*

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- Fantastic Family Home
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North Abingdon £300,000

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Langford Village £199,950

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EPC C
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EPC D
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Decked Area To rear
Village Location

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EPC F
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FOUR STOREY PERIOD PROPERTY
GARAGE
TOWN CENTRE
NO ONWARD CHAIN

Middleton Cheney £550,000

EPC C
Five Bedrooms Detached
South Facing Garden
Countryside Views
Village Location
No Onward Chain

Banbury £255,000

EPC D
End of Terrace
Three Bedrooms
Maintained to High Standard
Mature Rear Garden

Banbury £260,000

EPC C
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Shower Room Ensuite
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Banbury £255,000

*EPC C
*Three Bedrooms
*Off Street Parking
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HANWELL FIELDS

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EPC Rating: C

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Master bedroom with en-suite

Walking distance to local centre & Primary School

Cheviot Way £285,000

EPC Rating: D

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Three good size bedrooms

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Viewing essential

Lord Fielding Close £325,000

EPC Rating: C

Lounge with additional Large Family room

Upward Chain Complete

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Immaculately presented throughout.

Horsham Close £345,000

EPC Rating: E

Corner Plot

Open Plan Kitchen

Conservatory

Garage

Private Rear Garden

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CARTERTON

SHILTON PARK £180,000

This superb two bedroom apartment comprises of two double bedrooms one with an ensuite, bathroom, kitchen, open plan lounge diner and outside the apartment has allocated parking.

SHILTON PARK £195,000

Connells are delighted to bring to the market this spacious two bedroom first floor apartment located in the heart of the popular Shilton Park. Call Connells to view now!

SHILTON PARK £315,000

A beautifully presented detached family home tucked away on the popular Shilton Park development. The accommodation internally flows well and provides a perfect layout.

SWINBROOK PARK £434,995

NEW HOME - Four bedroom DETACHED house on the new Swinbrook Park developement just over one mile from Carterton town centre. EPC EXCEMPT

CARTERTON £460,000

Larger than average detached bungalow with the added bonus of a one bedroom annex. Located in a popular Road close to all local amenities.

FAIRFORD £499,995

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SHILTON PARK £539,950

Connells are delighted to present to the market this exceptional five bedroom detached family home. Oozing luxury and versatility throughout this property is a MUST FOR VIEWING.

The Clyde £POA

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WITNEY

Plot 1 — POA £349,995

The ONLY 3 BEDROOM HOUSE remaining on RELEASE at 'ASHCOMBE PLACE', a desirable development in the popular market town of WITNEY. Please call 01993 778281 to find out more.

Plot 18 — POA £464,995

The ONLY 4 BEDROOM house on release at 'ASHCOMBE PLACE', a desirable development in the popular market town of WITNEY. 3 and 4 bedroom homes currently on release. Please call 01993 778281 to find out more.

Beechgate — Offers in Excess £200,000

Fantastic opportunity for first buyers and investors to purchase this two bedroom top floor flat situated in he centre of Witney. This spacious flat includes a fully fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom with economy 7 storage heaters throughout. There is one allocated parking space. EPC Rating: C

Holloway Road — £255,000

This fantastic one bedroom bungalow situated in the heart of Witney town centre offers spacious accommodation, parking and a rear garden. EPC Rating: C

Manor Road — £250,000

A well presented family home situated in a sought after location within Witney. This two bedroom family home briefly comprises of an entrance hall, lounge and kitchen. From the first floor landing there are two spacious bedrooms and a family bathroom. EPC: C

5 — £335,000

This spacious three bedroom mid terraced family home is situated in a quiet cul de sac in the town of Witney.The property comprises of an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner and conservatory. Two double bedrooms, a single bedroom and a family bathroom. Outside there is a rear garden and off street parking for two cars. EPC Rating: C

Oakdale Road — £700,000

A converted and deceptive SEVEN bedroom detached house in Witney. The property offers space that is rarely seen in Witney. Externally the property offers a rear garden and a double garage for parking. EPC Rating: C

Finstock — £242,000

A Three bedroom mid-terraced family home in the popular village of Finstock. Internally the property offers a living room / dining room, spacious kitchen, three bedrooms with a family bathroom. Outside the property is a private front and rear garden. Garage with a recently new roof. On street parking is available. EPC Rating: C

Otters Court — £155,000

This one bedroom second floor retirement flat is located close to Witney town centre. Built in 2009, this well designed purpose built flat is double glazed through-out with modern electric central heating. Residents need to be 60+ or if a couple, one resident needs to be at least 60 and the other 55+ years old. EPC Rating: B

01993 778 281 witney@connells.co.uk
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Cowley **Offers in Excess £330,000**

A delightful two bedroom property with loft room and gardens on the Cowley Rd with good access to shops and amenities, ideal first time buy or investment alike. EPC: C

Greater Leys **£285,000**

WELL PRESENTED two bed terrace in a quiet cul-de-sac. Garage and parking in a block, front and rear gardens, two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, gas central heating and fitted combination boiler. Ideal for first time buyers.

EPC Rating: C

East Oxford **Guide Price £575,000**

BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN mid terrace benefiting from loft room and rear extension. With period features throughout this property offers a GREAT FAMILY HOME and is deceptively spacious. EPC Rating: D

Blackbird Leys **Guide Price £335,000**

An exceptionally well presented 3 BEDROOM house with the selling advantage of a GARAGE to the rear & BLOCK PAVED PARKING to the front. This is a must view!! EPC Rating: D

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60 Between Towns Road

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OXFORD

Kennington £575,000

Rose Cottage is a GRADE II LISTED COTTAGE situated in the sought after village of Kennington. Internally the property offers array of character combined with modern features with two bedrooms and en-suite to the master. The cottage has been thoughtfully extended with further planning approved, application number: P16/V2828/HH. EPC: Awaited

Littlemore £400,000

A sizable SEMI DETACHED house with accommodation offering TWO RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE BEDROOMS, plus on the ground floor a fitted kitchen with archway to utility area and CLOAKROOM with upstairs a FAMILY WHITE BATHROOM.
EPC Rating: Awaited

Sandford On Thames £435,000

A BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE set in a peaceful location within the village of Sandford On Thames. It boasts two bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor with lounge, separate dining room plus newly fitted kitchen to the ground floor. CHARACTER FEATURES THROUGHOUT.
EPC Rating: D

Cowley £425,000

EXTENDED end terrace property presented to a HIGH STANDARD throughout. Offering an attractive family home with potential for further development (subject to planning). A good location on the local bus route with shops and amenities close by.
EPC Rating: D

Temple Cowley £335,000

TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM end of terraced located which has been EXTENDED to the front making the lounge/dining room a generous 24 ft in length. Garage in a block plus gated side access into the rear garden.

EPC Rating: D

East Oxford £400,000

A 2 bedroom TOWNHOUSE, in the vibrant Cowley area of Oxford. The property built over 3 floors, has a reception room on the ground floor, along with an integrated garage,1st floor provides a kitchen/diner, bathroom and second bedroom, the large double master bedroom can be found on the top floor.
EPC Rating: D

Blackbird Leys Offers in Excess £315,000

This THREE BEDROOM mid terraced property is deceptively spacious having been EXTENDED to the rear and a must view property with three bedrooms and bathroom upstairs with two reception rooms or one to be used as a 4th bedroom.

EPC Rating: C

Blackbird Leys Guide Price £300,000

Situated near local shops, leisure centre/swimming pool and bus stop this THREE bedroom family home has been UPDATED THROUGHOUT to a high standard, so if you are just looking to move in and live in style this is a must view property but come and see for yourself call the sales team on 01865 748448.
EPC Rating: D

Cowley £277,000

An attractive TWO bedroom 1st floor apartment situated within the Ring Road in the very well sought after development, Beauchamp Place which is within walking distance to Templars Shopping Centre. Ideal for first time buyers.
EPC Rating: C

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HEADINGTON

Risinghurst £475,000

Available with no onward chain, this light, airy and spacious home is finished to a good standard. With balanced accommodation over two floors this property would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity.

Headington £475,000

Ideally located for access to the John Radcliffe Hospital and with excellent transport links into Oxford city centre this semi-detached property has off road parking and two reception rooms. In the popular Cherwell School catchment area this would make an ideal family home or investment

Yarnton OIE £325,000

This modern, well presented property is located in the sought after village of Yarnton. Benefitting from off road parking and an enclosed rear garden, an ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investor. Approximate ten minute drive from Oxford Parkway. Sold with no onward chain.

Headington OIE £290,000

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, the property is offered with no onward chain. It would be ideal for first time buyers and offers great transport links to the centre and the hospitals. Viewing advised.

Marston OIRO £440,000

Prime Marston location within the Cherwell catchment area providing easy access to the A40, JR Hospital and Brookes University. A 1930's property providing accommodation over two levels with a larger than average garden, with the potential to extend (STP).

Headington OIE £475,000

Three bedroom family home in this highly regarded road.This property is offered with no onward chain. Within walking distance from the Churchill, Nuffield and JR hospitals. Also close proximity to Brookes campus and Headington shops.

Yarnton £60,000

A beautifully presented apartment in this exclusive development for the over 55s. With under floor heating throughout and open plan living space this shared ownership home (25%) also has access to communal gardens, laundry facilities and an on site restaurant and hairdresser

Marston £475,000

Providing easy access to both Headington hospitals and Oxford city centre this house would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity

Yarnton £155,000

A fantastic development for the over 55's. A shared ownership (75% Share) apartment situated in the tranquil village of Yarnton. This development comprises of facilities such as: An in-house Restaurant, Hairdresser, Residents Lounge and Hobby Room.

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THAME

Thame **£489,950**

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Thame **£539,950**

JUST RELEASED PLOT 11, THE DORCHESTER. A BRAND NEW STUNNING 4 BEDROOM LINK DETACHED HOUSE BY BELLWAY HOMES ON THE HAMPDEN GARDENS DEVELOPMENT IN THAME. CALL CONNELLS NOW ON 01844 260000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Thame **£489,950**

JUST RELEASED PLOT 14, THE WESLEY. A BRAND NEW STUNNING 3 BEDROOM LINK DETACHED HOUSE BY BELLWAY HOMES ON THE HAMPDEN GARDENS DEVELOPMENT IN THAME. CALL CONNELLS NOW ON 01844 260000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Chinnor **£530,000**

A mature five bedroom detached family home that has been successfully extended in a location with manicured corner plot gardens that enjoy a southerly aspect.

Waterstock **£700,000**

Lovingly refurbished and maintained by its current owner, the property is offered for sale with; a "farmhouse" kitchen, two well proportioned reception rooms, feature fireplace, exposed beams, mature and enclosed gardens along with off street parking.

Haddenham **£550,000**

This spacious accommodation is arranged over 3 floors, with en-suite shower rooms to 2 of the bedrooms along with attached garage and enclosed rear garden. Prospective purchasers will note that no onward chain is involved with the purchase of the property.

Long Crendon **£375,000**

This mature three bedroom detached family home offers spacious and airy accommodation and is centrally located within the popular village of Long Crendon. Prospective purchasers should note that no onward chain is involved and that the owners selling agents can strongly advise an early internal inspection.

Brill **£600,000**

A fabulous 3 bedroom detached period cottage that has been extensively modernised, upgraded and extended by the current owners to create a quintessential 'cottage in the country' in this sought after local village. This charming home combines contemporary living with an old English village feel and offers a wealth of features.

Thame **£495,000**

STAMP DUTY PAID A fabulous well presented four bedroom family home situated close to the town centre of Thame in a pleasant and private cul de sac that gives a good deal of seclusion and a private driveway with double length garage.

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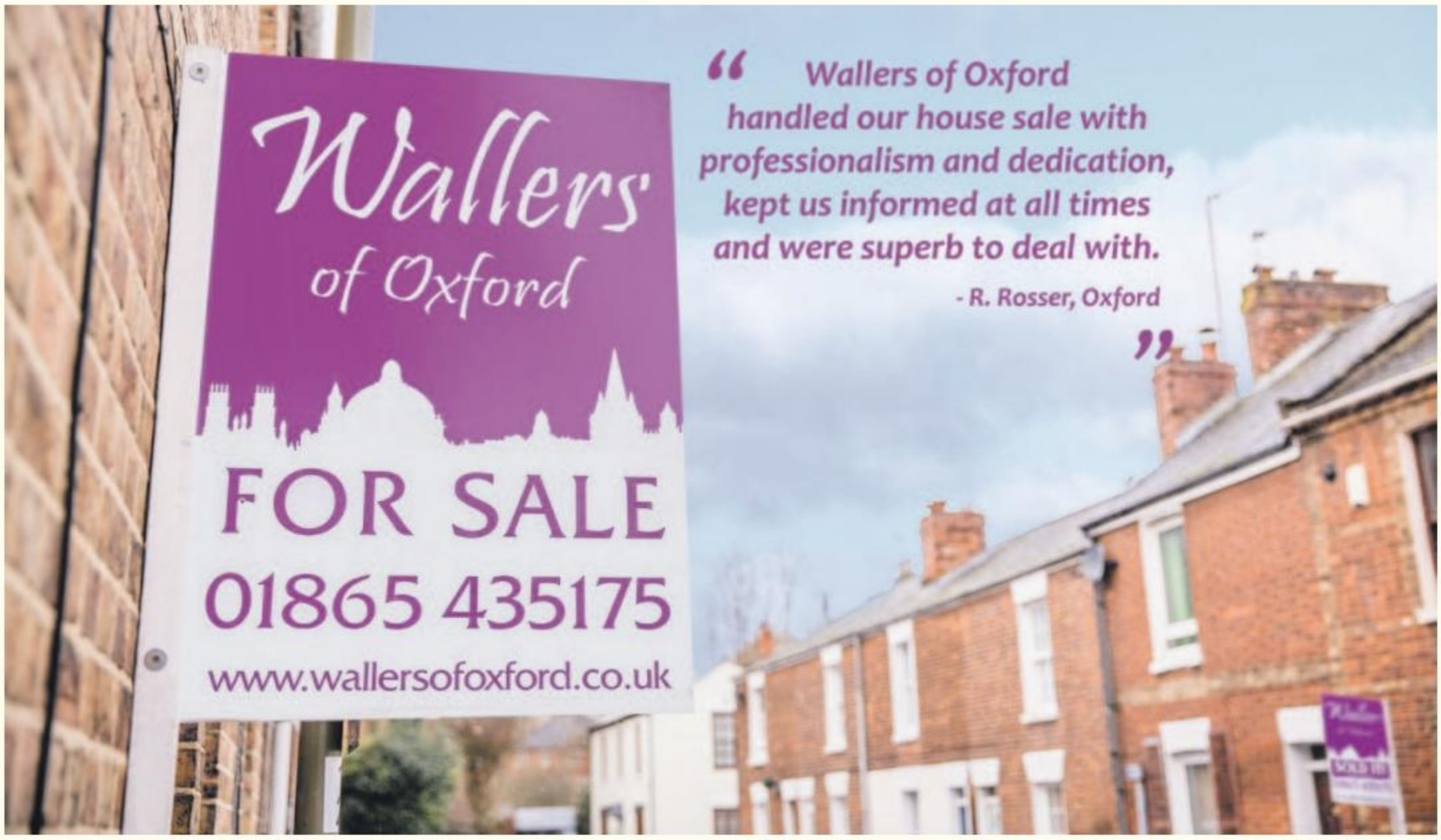
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£975,000

Mount Street, Jericho
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£750,000

Kingfisher Drive, Great Western Pk, Didcot
Five Bedroom, Four Bathroom
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Kimmeridge Road, Cumnor Hill
Four Bedroom Family Home
£535,000

Baker Road, Abingdon
Three Bedroom Family Home
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Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown Oxford Ox2 7HT

Longer tenancy agreements – how will I be affected?

Whether you're a tenant or a landlord, the chances are the recent Housing White Paper which, amongst things, referenced longer tenancy agreements, will have left you confused and uncertain of what you're entitled to and what you're obliged to offer.

Headlines immediately following the White Paper spoke of making renting fairer to tenants and of encouraging family-friendly tenancies. Tenancy periods of three years were referenced and yet, less than 24 hours later, the focus had shifted to say that wasn't the case and longer tenancies would only apply on new 'build to rent' developments.

With the white paper claiming to focus on "fixing our broken housing market", the confusion which has since developed has done anything but help the wider situation. However, the reality has in fact changed very little and any reputable lettings agent will be able to advise you on the tenancy options available whether you're the landlord or the tenant.

Here at Andrews, most of our rental customers are living in properties on assured shorthold tenancy arrangements – but that's a world away from stating that the majority of our customers are living in properties where the tenancy length has been agreed at seven or twelve months. Simply, the length of term is agreed between landlord and tenant.

There is no set rule for setting tenancy lengths and whilst, under the assured shorthold tenancy framework, six or 12 months tends to be the norm, there are a host of circumstances in which flexibility leads to alternative lengths.

Take, for example, a landlord who is planning to sell a property. He is likely to choose to market that property on a shorter tenancy of around six months, and consequently attract tenants who are similarly looking for a stop-gap solution, perhaps whilst they find a property to purchase themselves.

A landlord, meanwhile, who is focused on the investment aspect of buy-to-let, is likely to prefer a tenant who is happy to commit for a longer term in the region of two years.

And, of course, there are pros and cons of all tenancy lengths.

In a long term let scenario, perhaps where families move in to a school catchment area, you're assured that the property will be occupied for a set time over the longer term, whilst also having a legal commitment from someone to pay the rent.

Shorter term lets, meanwhile, are more likely to appeal to those with a more transient lifestyle, often because of work commitments, although these will mean the agent is sourcing new tenants at an increased frequency.

If the recent housing White Paper has left you confused over tenancy types and lengths, then pop in to your local branch of Andrews – there are five across Oxfordshire – or visit andrewsonline.co.uk.

High quality two-bed home in Wantage

• *From front page*

into the living room, with a feature fireplace, laminate wood flooring throughout and a double glazed window to the front.

It is open plan to the new fitted kitchen, with a range of wall and base units, solid wood work surfaces and a ceramic sink.

A door leads through to the separate utility at the rear of the house, with space and plumbing for washing machine and further appliances, furthermore there is a WC and hand wash basin with two windows and a door to the side.

To the first floor is a sizable bedroom with a double glazed window to the front, the family bathroom with a double glazed window to the rear, a new white suite, with a bath, separate corner shower, vanity sink unit and WC.

To the second floor is a further double bedroom with a double glazed window to the front.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact selling agent Davis Tate Wantage on 01235 772670.

Let's unpick the Oxford market a little more

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Over the last five years Oxford home owners have seen their property increase in value by an average of 37 per cent. The average price paid for a property based on all registered transactions over the last 12 months was £400,063. But, last year the total number of transactions fell by 12 per cent compared to the previous 12 months. So the big question is, is Oxford losing its shine as a place to invest in property?

Why are transaction volumes down?

Last April the Government applied a stamp duty surcharge on properties bought that were a second property owned. This resulted in a surge of transactions during March 2016, which was followed by a real lull in transactions. Following the new stamp duty rules, there have been fewer completed transactions by landlords buying to privately let their properties. The Government will chalk that up as a success, believing that it frees the market for owner occupiers, avoiding landlord demand pushing-up house prices.

Has demand reduced?

No, demand for Oxford homes has apparently remained constant or at least it has remained balanced with available supply of properties for sale. Rightmove reports that prices in 2016 were six per cent up on the previous 12 months; Zoopla reports that they were just 3.9 per cent higher. According to Dataloft which monitors all sales, in the 12 months to October 2016, prices were up 10 per cent. Given that Land Registry data is holistic it makes most sense to place most reliance on the Dataloft data.

If demand from landlords has reduced due to the increased costs of stamp duty, one has to assume that demand from owner occupiers has filled the void.

How have different property types performed?

The table below shows the average increases in value for different property types for Oxford as a whole, and for major post code segments, based on Land Registry data for the 12 months to October 2016. It shows quite broad variation across Oxford and between property types.

Overall, flats/apartments have performed strongly in OX3, OX4, and particularly in OX5. Terraced properties in OX1 and OX2 have done well, reflecting the higher density of this housing in key post-codes. Detached homes performed strongly across post codes except for OX3. The street with the highest number of transactions was OX5.

How will Oxford property prices perform in 2017?

Whilst transaction volumes continue to be below pre-April 2016 levels, the market is stable as we enter 2017. Nationally, Rightmove is reporting asking prices are up 0.4 per cent in January, which is consistent with the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) estimate that prices will rise 3.4 per cent across the country in 2017. In 2016, Oxford property out-performed the national average of 6.4 per cent and I expect it to continue that trend. When my clients ask me for my prediction, I say the best properties will achieve six per cent.

For more information on the Oxford property market, go to OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk.

	Average Oxford price	Oxford	OX1	OX2	OX3	OX4	OX5
Flat	£272,112	14.48%	5.28%	1.96%	12.49%	10.58%	17.97%
Terraced	£379,008	7.07%	10.26%	12.21%	2.88%	6.77%	-1.17%
Semi-Detached	£400,703	2.47%	10.18%	-11.08%	8.32%	5.51%	6.71%
Detached	£608,850	6.41%	8.66%	8.37%	0.41%	6.77%	10.44%

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Arrival of spring is good news for sellers, says agent Connells

Get your property on the market now if you're serious about selling, says local estate agency Connells in Cowley.

According to the branch, the spring period is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for searching for property. As people shake off the cobwebs of winter and the weather gets warmer, potential buyers will be out in force looking for a new home.

"Spring is a great time to sell," said Ajay Kumar, branch manager at Connells in Cowley. "Not only are properties a lot more aesthetically pleasing in the better weather, but increased appetite to move during the spring period means sellers will have more prospective buyers competing to buy their home making it more likely you will achieve the best price."

Connells traditionally experiences a spike in buyer interest during the spring period and, since 2014, has recorded on average 19 per cent more people registering their interest in a new home each March compared to the previous month. Connells also currently has nearly 12 buyers registered for each property that comes onto the market.

"We almost always see a rush of buyers entering the market in springtime," Ajay added. "It seems that many feel inspired by the warmer weather and longer days to start making plans for the future, including looking for a new home. We're advising home owners to get their property on the market now and take advantage of the high demand for homes – sellers are in a strong position to achieve a good price and a quick sale."

To find out more about selling your property, the local market or to arrange a free market appraisal, contact Connells on 01865 748448, or email cowley@connells.co.uk.

Local estate agent, Davis Tate, appoints new managing director

Local estate and letting agent, Davis Tate, has announced the appointment of Matthew Bates as its new managing director following the decision by its founder members, Matthew Davis and David Tate, to step down from the position following 25 successful years at the helm. Both, however, will play an active role in the business moving forward.

The agency, which was established by Davis and Tate in Goring on Thames in 1991, is one of the most successful estate and letting agents in the region – with 80 staff working from 13 offices across Berkshire and South Oxfordshire including offices in Abingdon, Burghfield Common, Didcot, Goring on Thames, Henley on Thames, Pangbourne, Reading, Shinfield, Sonning Common, Shinfield, Twyford, Wantage, Wallingford and Woodley.

In 2016 it won the prestigious Sunday Times Estate Agency of the Year Award for the South East in acknowledgement of its exceptional customer services – beating off tough competition from across the region and adding to numerous awards it has won over the years.

Matthew – who grew up in Reading and continues to live nearby - takes up the role following 23 years in the property industry working within the lettings and residential sales markets and more recently as lettings director within Davis Tate - where he has worked for the last 12 years.

Matthew said: "I am obviously delighted to have been promoted to this new position and look forward to building on the success of my predecessors Matthew and David who have undoubtedly ensured that Davis Tate is now positioned as one of the most successful agencies in the region.

"This is a great opportunity for me to work with existing local teams and to ensure that we can continue to successfully support more and more local customers with our award winning service."

If you would like to find out how Davis Tate can help you as a buyer, seller, landlord or tenant, simply contact your local branch – details are available via davistate.com.

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Andrews Abingdon

Abingdon
01235 888393

Andrews

Abingdon £280,000
A characterful two bedroom town centre property with private courtyard garden and parking. EPC Rating G.

Abingdon £340,000
Families will love the outlook overlooking a playground, this three bed home is located within Rush Common catchment. EPC Rating D.

Abingdon £360,000
In the Audlett Drive area, popular for its proximity to Abingdon Town Centre, lies this welcoming and well-appointed three bedroom home. EPC Rating D

Abingdon £225,000
Offering two bedrooms and a position within half a mile of the market town of Abingdon. EPC Rating D

Longworth £560,000
Stunning recently extended four bedroom detached home in the village of Longworth, popular due to its link to the A420 within 1 mile. EPC Rating D.

Steventon £299,950
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DIDCOT A beautifully presented, and rarely available, 3 bedroom link-detached house. Occupying a corner plot and located just a short walk to local amenities, train station & primary schools. EPC Rating D
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£650,000 Guide Price

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Guide Price £640,000

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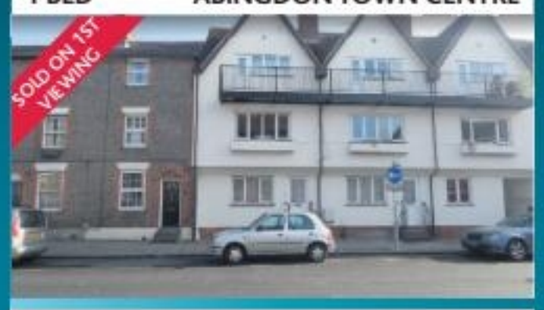

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3 BED — **ABINGDON**

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One bedroom APARTMENT in this popular RETIREMENT development, with views over the immaculate well maintained communal gardens. **£145,000**

2 BED — **ABINGDON**

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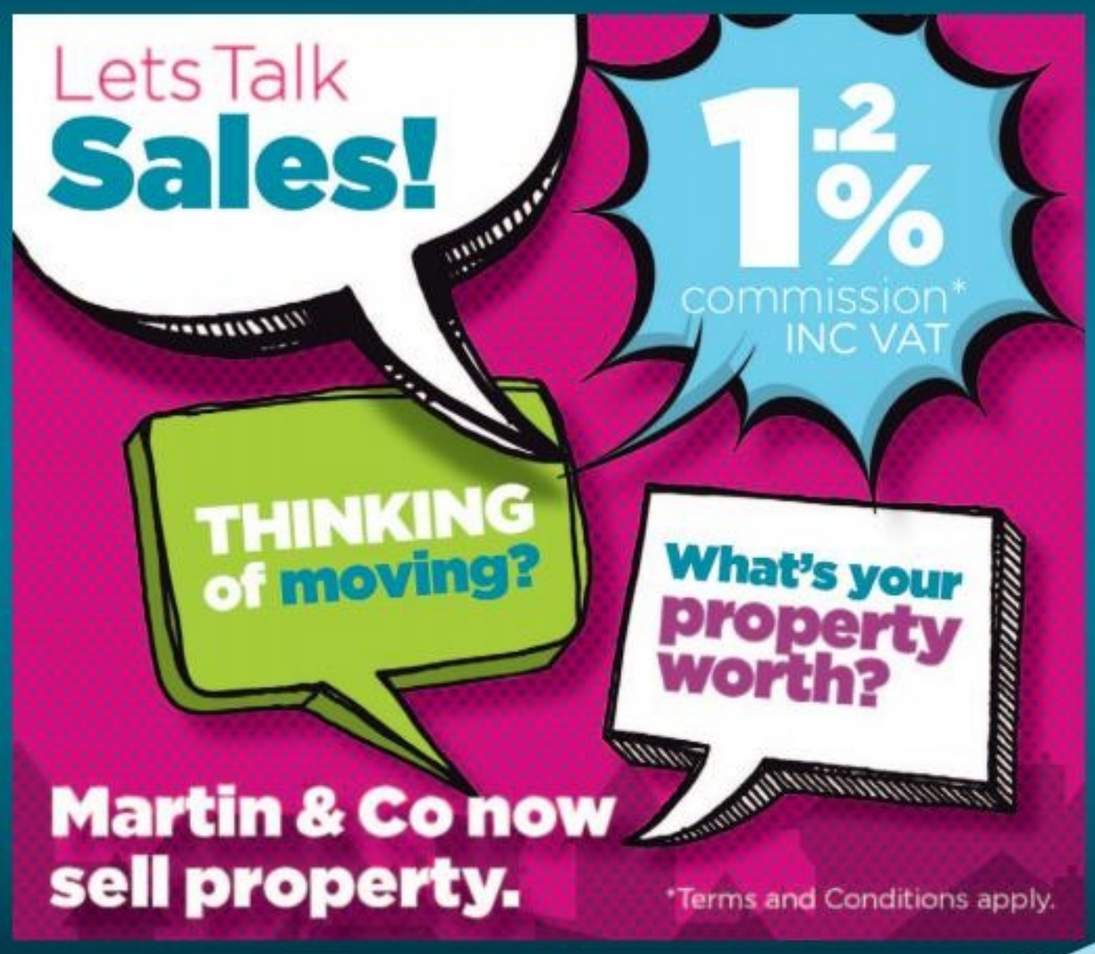

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3 BED — **ABINGDON**

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2 BED — **DORCHESTER ON THAMES**

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4 BED — **YARNTON**

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2 BED — **SUTTON COURTENAY**

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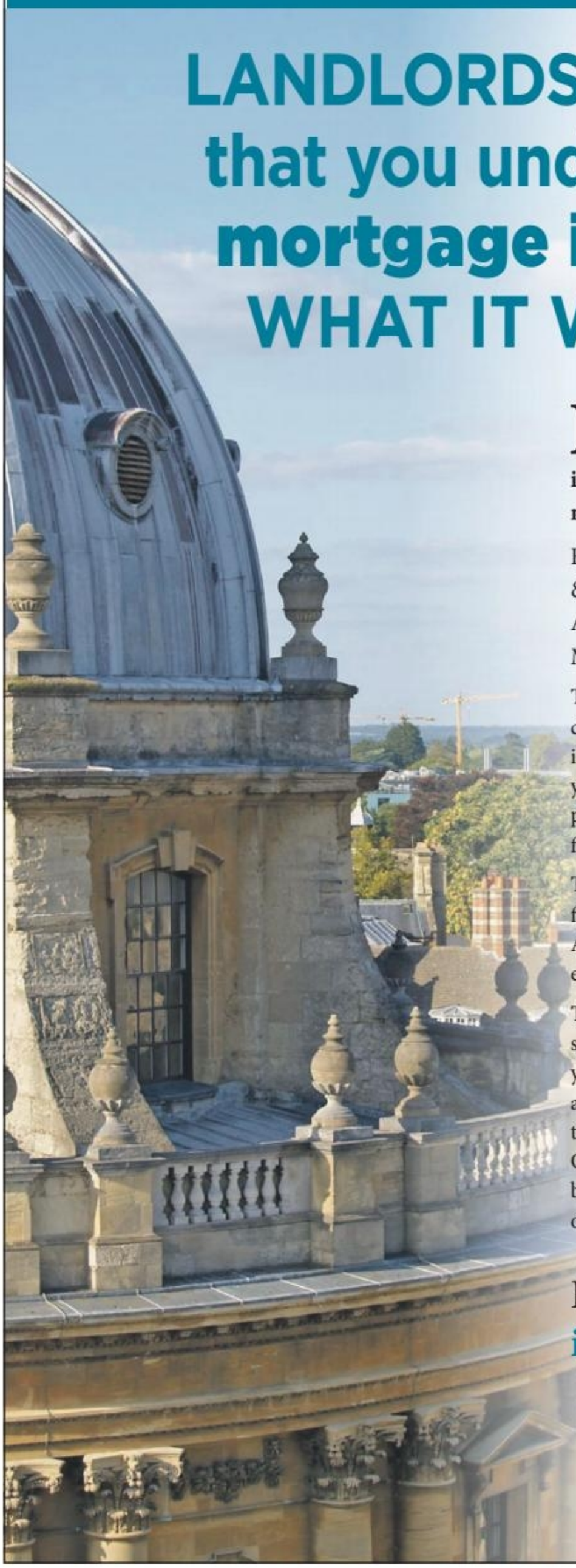

LANDLORDS – How confident are you that you understand the changes to mortgage interest rate relief and WHAT IT WILL MEAN FOR YOU?

If you have any doubts, don't worry! www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk is hosting a seminar a Landlord Seminar on 2 March 2017.

Featuring expert speakers from Martin & Co, Hedges Law, Critchleys Chartered Accountants and London & Country Mortgages.

The seminar will ensure you understand the changes to mortgage interest rate relief that is to be phased-in from April 2017. And, you will learn from experts about how to put in place sensible plans to minimise the financial impact on your income.

The Seminar will commence at 6pm and finish at 7.30pm at The Oxford Spires Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS. The event is limited to just 150 places.

This is the first in a series of planned seminars through 2017, and will provide you with easily understood information and the practical steps you can take now, to minimise the financial impact to you. Commencing at 6pm you will still be home by 8pm, having heard from local experts over 90 minutes.

At the event you will hear from:

Gerry Jackson a Chartered Tax Advisor and Director at Critchleys

Carl Selby a Solicitor and Head of Business Services at Hedges Law

Ollie Sills a Manager at London & Country Mortgages

Bill Cooper Managing Director of Martin & Co Oxford

And, there will be time to pick their brains before, during or after the seminar.

You will be run through the changes to mortgage interest rate relief planned from 5 April 2017 and how they will phase-in progressively over the coming years. Through worked examples, you will know how to assess the impact on you. You will learn about the factors that need to be considered when planning how to off-set the financial impacts of the changes, and we will explore in some detail the pros and cons of setting up a company structure, and the opportunity to re-mortgage given the changes many lenders have implemented since the start of 2017.

Please reserve your place by emailing
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Photographs and CGI of The Eaton showhome at Maple Grove. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots subject to terms and conditions. **Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Puppets bring horror story to life

By James Richings

THIS evening will be a scary one in Didcot but look out for the twist.

Mary Shelley's classic Frankenstein is being performed at the Cornerstone Arts Centre tonight, but puppets will be used to tell the tale.

Bracknell-based Blackeyed Theatre Company will tell one of the world's most popular horror stories at the Station Road venue.

For puppeteer and puppet maker Yvonne Stone, the chance to be part of a different interpretation of the story penned in 1818 was a no-brainer.

She said: "The story of 'Frankenstein' is all about bringing life to an inanimate object and using puppetry perfectly embodies this.

"As the electricity enters the creature, we see the puppeteers breathe life in to him.

"Puppets also have slightly different rules to humans which gives us so many possibilities."

Fascinated by puppets throughout her life, Yvonne studied puppetry at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, having previously attended the Byam Shaw School of Art.

She is now an independent puppet designer, maker and performer and her work involves making puppets and performing with them for film, television and theatre.

She was given the challenge of designing the Frankenstein creature for the show.

"There have been many challenges with the project," Yvonne told the Guardian.

"The sheer scale of the tour is a challenge in itself, trying to create something that can do this number of venues with hopefully very little maintenance.

"Making lightweight puppets is also a huge challenge, particularly if you want them to be this durable as well.

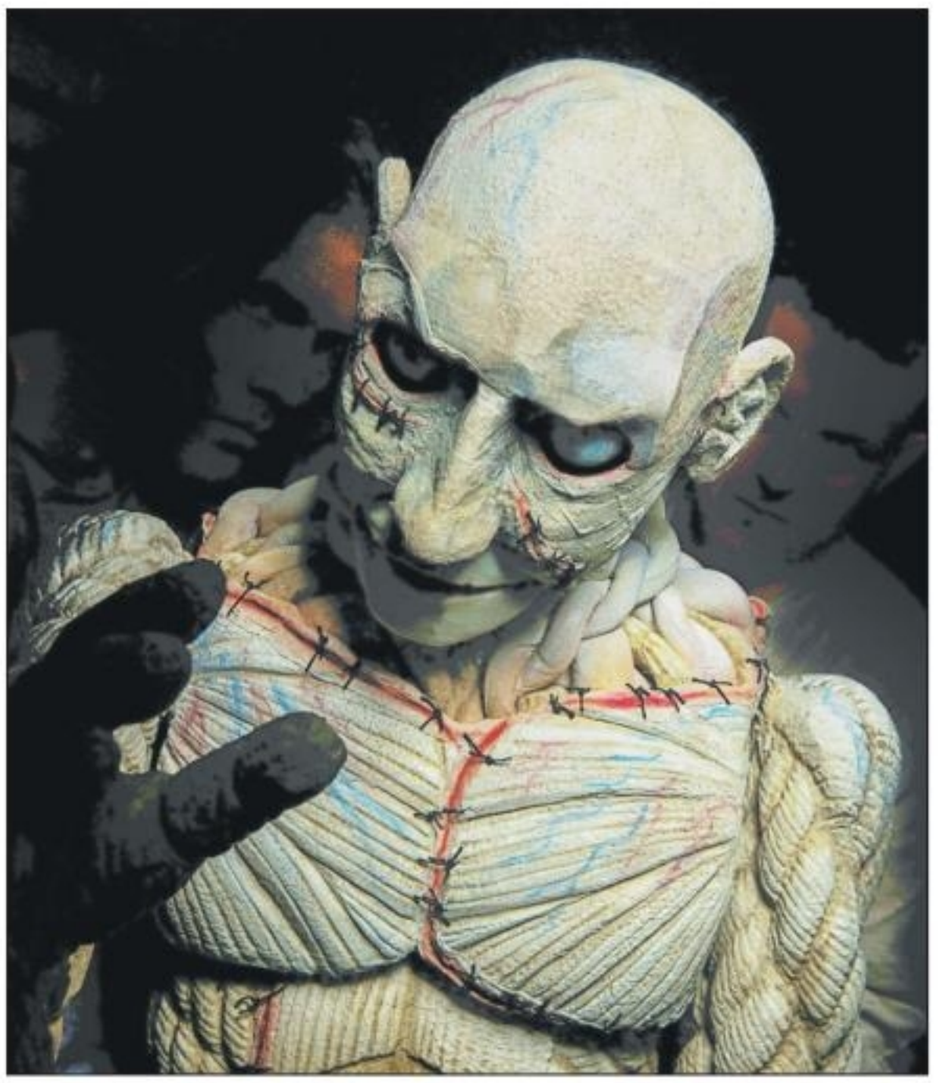
"I have really tried to push my making skills on this project, trying to create a puppet that can hopefully express real subtleties of movement despite his large size."

She added: "I've grown really fond of the creature as I've been making him, so I really hope that the audience feel some empathy for him.

"He didn't ask to be created by Frankenstein and even though he obviously does some terrible things throughout the play he is quite a tortured soul and I hope that comes across."

Tickets cost from £12 to £15.

It starts at 7pm and is suitable for anyone over the age of 12.



• *The monster puppet from the show*

The Epstein joined by guest Taylor

MUSIC: Indie folk band The Epstein will be at the Old Fire Station in Oxford this Saturday, February 25.

The group will be joined by Sean Taylor to perform tracks off their respected albums Burn the Branches (The Epstein) and Floor & Burn (Taylor)

Tickets cost £11 and the gig starts at 8pm.

Have a laugh

COMEDY: A comedy night will take place at the Kenton Theatre in Henley tomorrow night.

The New Street venue will feature Adam Hess, Annie McGrath and Tom Goodliffe.

Tickets cost from £13 to £25, and it starts at 8pm.

A real live wire

MUSIC: An AC/DC tribute band Live/Wire will be performing at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Friday, March 3.

The band will perform Highway to Hell, Thunderstruck, Who Made Who, Hells Bells and many more at the Spiceball Park venue.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £16.50.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Veridian are out to get their hooks into you

By James Richings

THE last 17 months have been incredible for Veridian.

In that time the six-piece rock band from Reading formed, recorded four singles, and have gained nearly 3,000 fans on their Facebook page.

The future looks bright for the group.

And after their incredibly successful debut gig in their home town last March, the band hope it will be a case of 'more of the same' when they play at the O2 Academy on Saturday, March 4.

The band arrive at the Cowley Road venue as part of their UK tour with fellow rock/punk band Evarose.

"It will be our first time at the O2 Academy in Oxford, although we used to attend gigs there when growing up so we're very excited to be playing such a prestigious venue," guitarist Joe Sellers told the Guardian.

"It's a great venue so we can definitely expect the crowd to be lively.

"Also, to get back on the road was very exciting for us.

"We visited some places we had been to before and some new ones. Just to have people singing our lyrics back to us was an incredible feeling."

Made up of lead singer Simon Jackman, guitarists Rob Everett and Joe Sellers, bassist Jonny Slevin, Zak Watson on the drums and keyboardist James Marshall Stack (aka Stack), the group met when playing in different bands.

They would regularly meet at various gigs across the Reading area before leaving their respected groups to form their own band in September 2015, where they began to rehearse tunes that Simon and Robbie had written.

Coverage from the likes of the BBC, Scuzz, Punktastic and Kerrang Radio have helped put the band firmly on the music map, as they embark on a small tour across the UK with fellow punk/rock group Evarose.

But despite the recent fame, Joe insists the band are keeping their head down and improving their craft.

• Veridian are, from left, Joe Sellers, Zak Watson, James Marshall, Simon Jackman, Rob Everett and Jonny Slevin

"We're just taking everything one step at a time and we're not getting too ahead of ourselves," he said.

"But I do believe that our songs have the catchiest hooks that will get stuck in people's heads.

"They'll go away and listen to our music and share it."

Tickets cost £9 and the gig starts at 6.30pm.

Life after shooting

FILM: Jackie will be shown at the Corn Exchange in Wallingford tomorrow night, Friday, February 24.

Starring Natalie Portman as the title character, the biographical drama examines the life of the former First Lady Jackie Kennedy Onassis after her husband, John F. Kennedy, was assassinated in November 1963.

Tickets cost £7 and the movie will start at 7.30pm.

Finely tuned wires

MUSIC: Oxfordshire covers band The Wirebirds will be gigging at The Old Anchor in Abingdon on Saturday, February 25.

The four-piece group, which specialises in blues and rock tunes, will perform the free gig from 9pm.

Bee a winner!

MUSIC: You Win Again – The Story of The Bee Gees will be performed at the Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot next Thursday, March 2.

The show arrives at the Station Road venue following a successful run on the West End last year.

It starts at 8pm and tickets cost from £16 to £20.

Email your entertainment news to jamesr@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Sharing their love of music

By James Richings

IT will be the end of an era when Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston arrive at Finstock Village Hall on Friday, March 3.

The past seven years have seen the duo travel the country, release two critically acclaimed albums and gain thousands of fans across the UK.

But the visit to the hall near Chipping Norton is part of their farewell tour.

Miranda told the Guardian that their time was up, and hope they can give their Oxfordshire audience a show to remember.

Miranda and Rex's final gig together as part of their tour will take place on March 9 in Doncaster, whilst their last performance together will take place in June at the Wirral Folk Festival.

"It is very rewarding when you play music and you connect with an audience," she told the Guardian.

"It may be a sigh or audible gasp at the end of a tune or a particularly rousing applause.

"Feedback after a gig is so very nice too, chatting to the audience at the end. You get to meet so many lovely people when you travel."

She added: "We have never played in Finstock before but always like being in the area.

"We have both spent a lot of time at Kingham Hill School with Sore Fingers Week and love Chipping Norton along with the surrounding areas."

The two first met back in 2009 when they joined The Scoville Units, a bluegrass group where Rex played the mandolin and Miranda played the double bass.

Their chemistry from the band led Miranda and Rex to embark on their own journey touring the country, whilst working on other projects, with Miranda also being a member of the country group Show of Hands and Rex working with Cara Dillon and Kate Rusby.

And with folk music now making a resurgence in the mainstream charts, Miranda firmly believes that she and Rex have left their mark on the industry.

"I feel that as a musician one of my jobs is to take music to people who don't have easy access to it," she said.

"I do community work when I can – taking participatory concerts out to the elderly and when I was eight years old I lived rurally in a little village near Spalding in Lincolnshire.

"I was very lucky as I had a group of peripatetic teachers visit my village primary school and encourage us that we were entitled to 20 minutes free tuition a week on an instrument of our choice.

"I went home enthusing about seeing the double bass.

"My parents encouraged me and invested a lot of time in taking me into Spalding and back for lessons once a week.

"It's all thanks to them and also thank you to the teachers for enthusing me."

The Well Hill gig will start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £11.

• Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston (Picture by Elly Lucas Miranda)

Tribute to Bowie

MUSIC: The Bowie Experience will be at the New Theatre in Oxford next Thursday, March 2.

Starring Laurence Knight as the late musician, the George Street venue will hear tracks such as Space Oddity, Under Pressure, Let's Dance and many more.

It begins at 7.30pm.

HippyHaze gig

MUSIC: Oxford-based band HippyHaze will be gigging at The Elm Tree in Witney this Saturday.

The trio will perform a number of popular hits from 1966 to 1969 at the West End venue.

The gig is free and starts at 9pm.

Make it Shappi!

COMEDY: Comedienne Shappi Khorsandi will be at the Chipping Norton Theatre tomorrow, Friday.

The 43-year-old visits the Spring Street venue as part of her Oh My Country UK tour.

The show is suitable for anyone over the age of 16. It starts at 7.45pm.

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From 6:00pm, Oxfordshire News Now brings you:
Thursday 23rd Feb: Alvin Roy talks about a charity jazz concert.
Friday 24th Feb: John Houston discusses the Wallingford Pancake Race.
Monday 27th Feb: Derek James joins us to chat about the first Oxford Virtual Reality Conferences.
Tues 28th Feb: Phin Glynn talks about his new independent film, Mad to be Normal.
On Talk Oxfordshire: Tuesday Jeremy Allen talks Current Affairs, Wednesday Eve Ahmed talks all things community and on Friday Emma-Jane Taylor talks fitness, health and wellbeing
Every day between 12:00pm-6:00pm tune in to watch classic films fromTalking Pictures TV.

Mon, Feb 20 – Sat, Feb 25
New Theatre, Oxford
WONDERLAND
TV and West End star Wendi Peters, much loved for her acclaimed portrayal of Cilla Battersby-Brown in 'Coronation Street' will headline the UK tour of 'Wonderland' as Queen of Hearts alongside musical theatre favourites Dave Willetts, who has previously starred in tours of 'South Pacific', '42nd Street' and 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' as White Rabbit.

Tue, Feb 21 – Sat, Feb 25
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
THE NIGHTINGALE AND ROSE
"If you want a red rose," said the tree, "you must build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with your own heart's blood."
What is love and what should we sacrifice for it? When a young student falls head-overheels, the only way to win his heart's desire is to give her the reddest rose in the world. All seems lost until a nightingale hears the student's lament; to what ends will the little bird go to help love succeed?
Oscar Wilde's short story is adapted by students Bea Udale-Smith and Georgia Heneage. It combines the emotional intensity of Wilde's language with ensemble physical theatre.

Tue, Feb 21 - Sat, Feb 25
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
KRAPP'S LAST TAPE
Krapp sits alone with himself – in fact, he's surrounded by many of his past selves. Spools of tape spill out onto the table, each containing a recording he's made. Each containing a glimpse into his past. But as the words of the past and the present blur together, we begin to wonder if words can ever be a substitute for experience...

Tue, Feb 21 – Sat, Feb 25
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
EMBERS
Henry sits in an unknown location, surrounded by the ever-present sound of the sea. As voices begin to fade in and out, we wonder: is the woman who speaks to Henry really present? Or is this just another person that Henry imagines to drown out the roar of the waves?

Tue, Feb 21 – Fri, Mar 3
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
LA LA LAND
Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a dedicated jazz musician, are struggling to make ends meet in a city known for crushing hopes and breaking hearts. Set in modern day Los Angeles, this original Oscar-tipped musical film about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing your dreams.

Thu, Feb 23, 7pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
FRANKENSTEIN
Brighten up your Tuesday evening at our Open Mic night at Nourish. We are constantly impressed by the number of amazing musicians and artists in the area and by the warmth of the audience. You may even spot, or be, the next big thing.

Fri, Feb 24, 11am & 2pm
Old Fire Station, Oxford
HOME
Exploring a new and unknown world, Home immerses audiences with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) in a multi-sensory story of discovery. Home is the latest bold and exciting production from Frozen Light.

Fri, Feb 24, 6.30pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE CLONE ROSES
The Clone Roses are the longest-serving and most popular Stone Roses tribute playing live today. Their attention to detail is second to none, with the band acquiring the same clothing, instruments and playing the same set as The Stone Roses themselves.

Sat, Feb 25, 6pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
LAST RITES, ECHO4FOUR AND RAISED BY HYPOCRITES

Sat, Feb 25, 6.30pm
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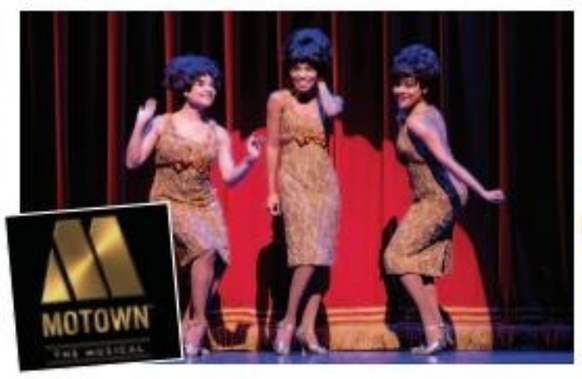

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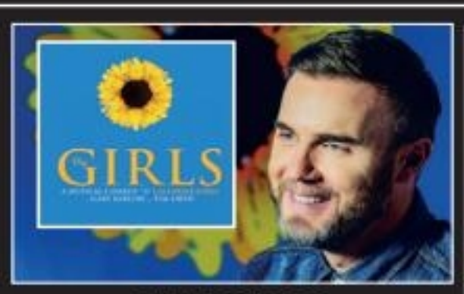

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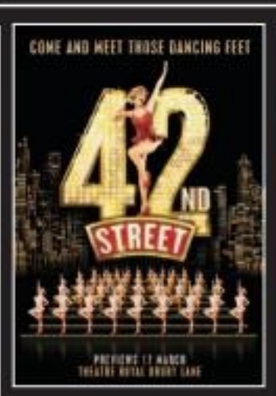

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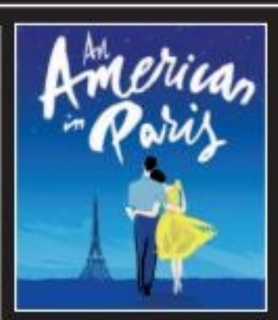

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Mazda3 2.2 150ps Sport Nav Diesel

By **Tony Yates**

THE new 2017 Mazda3 has been recently updated with a revised grille with a stronger three-dimensional look, a new front fog light bezel and the availability of LED headlamp technology across both body styles, along with revised door mirrors featuring wrap-around turn indicators, while hatchback versions feature a newly redesigned rear bumper.

The interior has also had a makeover to help it feel more driver-oriented. You will also find a host of updates that include higher-quality switch panels and handle bezels on the doors, and a newly designed dashboard trim insert and the adoption of an electric parking brake creates space for a more practical centre console.

Power and efficiency

My test car was fitted with a 150PS, 2,191cc common-rail diesel engine which has a low-friction and light-weight all-alloy construction which all helps to keep it as efficient as possible. The engine also has a Twin-turbo layout which helps minimise turbo lag and you can feel that working its magic as soon as you press the pedal – that of course also helps improve mid-range punch between gear changes and when overtaking is a must.

Fuel economy is also very good and I achieved 58.5mpg on the combined cycle. The engine also easily meets stringent EU Stage 6 emission levels without the need for any expensive after-treatment systems which is good news for the owner. 0 to 62 also arrives in 8.1 sec and a will reach a top speed of 130 mph.

Every model in the Mazda3 range is fitted with Mazda's innovative i-stop intelligent idle-stop technology. Developed entirely in-house and tailored specifically for its application in Mazda's new generation of SKYACTIV-Engines.

On the road

I like the way the Mazda3 handles the road – it feels very well balanced. Also, when the road gets twisty – it is more than capable of holding its own. The steering also feels light and agile – and you get enormous feedback from the front wheels as to what the road surface is doing below. Also, when you hook all this up to its fantastic 6 speed gearbox – you can't really go wrong - It's no exaggeration for me to say that I think the Mazda3 has a lot of manufacturers a little bit worried right about now.

Safety and technology

Some of the standard features on the Mazda3 include; ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist (EBA), Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), a Traction Control System (TCS), an Emergency Stop Signalling System (ESS), Hill Launch Assist (HLA), and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS). It is also fitted with six airbags – dual front, side airbags and full-length curtain, while ISOFIX rear seats and five three-point seatbelts with pre-tensioners complete the standard safety package.

To sum up

Mazda really have done a fantastic job here - and the new Mazda3 is now well above any of its rivals and it should do well in its current newly revised form.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 28.0 (10.1) - 74.3 (3.8). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 88.3 (3.2). Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 167 - 89.

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The all-new Mazda MX-5 RF

• The all-new Mazda MX-5 RF Retractable Fastback on sale from the 4th March 2017 • Priced from £22,195 to £28,995 the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF joins the award-winning MX-5 range • Limited to just 500 cars, the £28,995 Launch Edition features unique styling and equipment.

WITH production having started at Mazda's Ujina Plant in Hiroshima Japan, the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF Retractable Fastback will go on sale on the UK on the 4th March 2017.

With the first cars produced heading to Europe and North America, UK drivers will be able to get behind the wheel of Mazda's exciting new MX-5 Retractable Fastback early next year.

With a limited run of just 500 cars, the six model range will be heralded by the flagship Launch Edition. Powered by a 160ps 2.0-litre SKYACTIV-G engine, the Launch Edition is marked out by its unique twin-tone roof, BBS wheels, black door mirrors and black rear spoiler. Available with a choice of free-of-charge Soul Red or Machine Grey metallic paint, it also comes with a Safety Pack as standard, while the exclusive feel continues inside with Alcantara trim and Recaro seats.

Designed to offer a new dimension of open-top driving fun, while at the same time staying true to the underlying principle of the previous generation MX-5 retractable hardtop, the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF's 'fastback' styling gives it a unique appearance roof up or down, broadening the appeal of the world's best-selling two-seater sports car.

As with the established Mazda MX-5 convertible, all models powered by the 2.0-litre 160ps engine feature a limited slip differential and 17-inch wheels; while Sport Nav models (and the Launch Edition) feature Bilstein dampers and strut brace to further enhance their dynamic set up. Plus, with the introduction of the £27,095 Sport Nav Auto, the current generation of MX-5 is offered with an automatic gearbox for the first time in the UK. Offered in both SE-L Nav and Sport Nav trim, RF's powered by the 1.5-litre 131ps engine will arrive in dealerships in May.

Developed to deliver enhanced cabin comfort and a refined ride, while at the same time maintaining the agility, performance and driver engagement of the MX-5 convertible, the suspension and electric power steering parameters of the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF have been specifically tuned for the Retractable Fastback. In addition, a sound-absorbing headliner used in the front and middle roof panels combines with sound insulation around the rear wheel housings to deliver a significantly quieter cabin when the roof is closed.

"With the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF we freed ourselves from traditional ways of thinking and took on fresh challenges in order to create something new. Our aim was a convertible sports car with gorgeous fastback lines when the roof is closed and an exhilarating open-air feeling when open", commented Nobuhiro Yamamoto, Mazda MX-5 Programme Manager.

The MX-5 RF's retractable hardtop consists of front, middle and rear roof sections, and a rear screen. When the top is lowered the front and middle portions are stowed together, while the rear glass sits behind the seats, leaving the rear roof section in place to create a unique open-topped look, and a cabin feeling that combines a sense of open air freedom with the impression of being securely ensconced within the car.

On the Launch Edition the front and middle roof sections feature a piano black finish that contrasts with the Soul Red or Machine Grey metallic paint, which both use Mazda's unique "TAKUMINURI" paint process to deliver glossy depth and nuanced shading that intensifies the contrasts between light and shadow with its high-density finish, giving the impression that the body was sculpted from a solid block of steel.

Building on the all-new Mazda MX-5's award-winning design, the RF's roof up style will set it apart when it arrives on UK roads early next year. A 5mm increase in roof height aside, the RF retains the same overall length, width and wheelbase as the MX-5 convertible, but thanks to gently downward

sloping buttresses that tuck in at the sides to create a teardrop shape, the RF's elegant fastback silhouette accentuates the MX-5's dynamic and contemporary sports car proportions in a completely unique way.

"If we consider the convertible model to represent the purist of lightweight sports car appeal, the new Retractable Fastback epitomises a new type of MX-5 that aims to be a compact sports car with a natural charm that everyone will find beautiful", commented Masashi Nakayama, Mazda MX-5 Chief Designer.

With pre-order now open, the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF will arrive in dealerships on the 4th March 2017 and promises to add another chapter in the MX-5 success story. Jeremy Thomson, Managing Director of Mazda Motors UK said, "we're very excited about the arrival of the all-new Mazda MX-5 RF. It will add a unique and stylish model to our range, one that stands distinct from the MX-5 Convertible, yet retains all the award-winning driver appeal our sports car is famed for.

Adding, "with over 120,000 sales since its launch in 1990, the UK has played a huge part in the MX-5 success story. The last generation of retractable hardtop accounted for a large percentage of MX-5 sales and we expect the all-new RF to continue that trend."

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The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results. Model shown: all-new Mazda MX-5 RF 160ps Sport Nav, OTR from £25,695. Model shown features optional Machine Grey metallic paint (£670). OTR subject to revised RFL changes effective 1 April 2017. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No. 3716766. VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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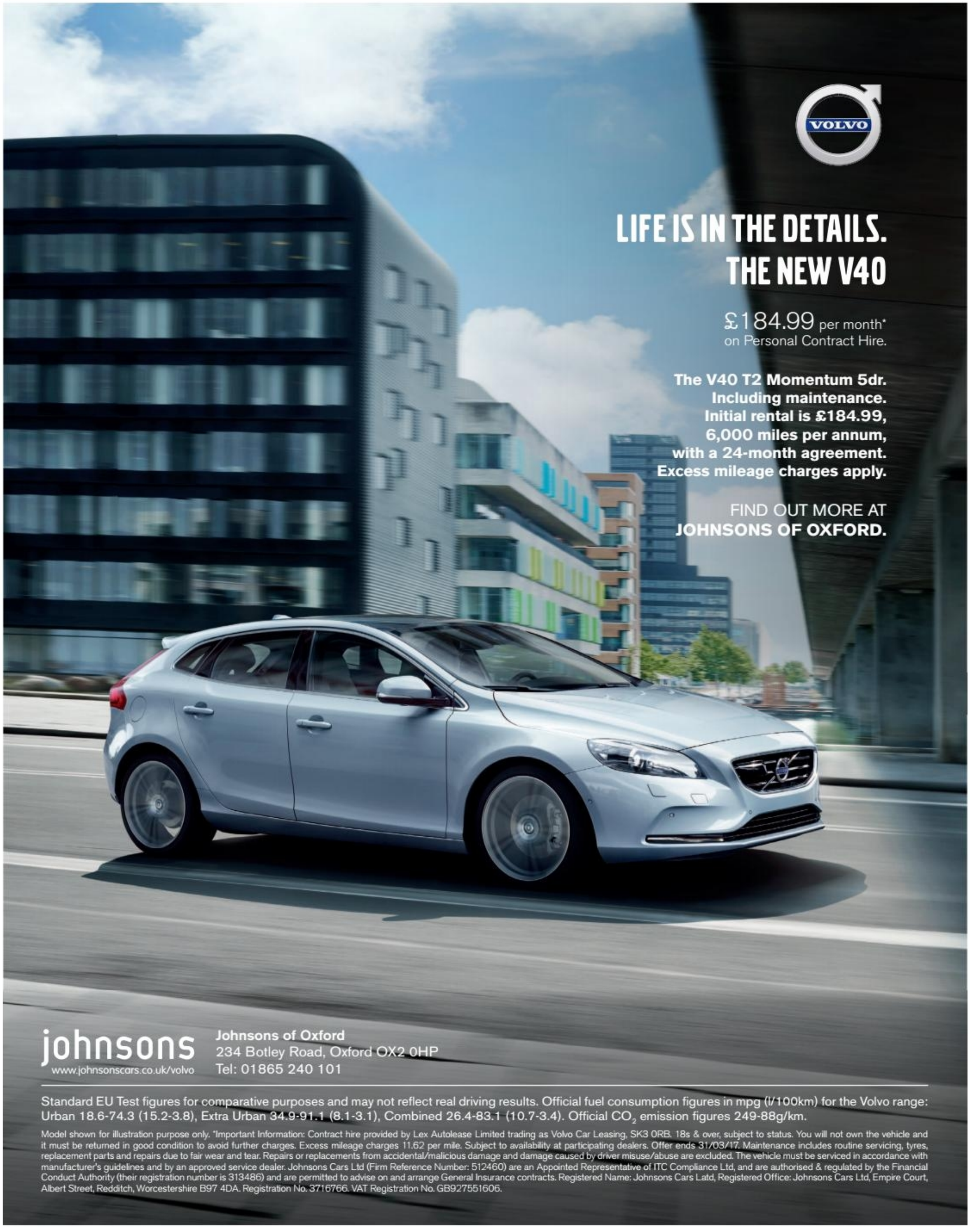
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16 16 MG 3 1.5 STYLE 5 DR, met silver, fsh, 8k £7,495

16 16 MG 3 1.5 STYLE VTI, met grey, fsh, 7k £7,495

14 64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI ECOFLEX, met grey, fsh, 18k £6,995

13 13 TOYOTA YARIS 1.4 DIESEL TR NAV, met silver, fsh, 62k..... £6,995

14 14 PEUGEOT 208 1.2 ACTIVE 5DR, met grey, fsh, 41k £6,995

11 11 MAZDA 2 TS2 AUTO, met silver, fsh, 48k £5,995

11 11 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met black, sh, 60k £5,995

10 59 FIAT 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3 DR, white, fsh, 56k..... £4,995

10 10 CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2 LT 5 DR MANUAL, red, fsh, 63k..... £3,495

09 09 FORD KA 1.25 STUDIO 3DR, met silver, 45k £3,495

05 55 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR, Black, sh, 87k £3,495

08 08 FORD KA 1.3 STYLE CLIMATE 3DR, 1 owner, fsh, Yellow..... £2,295

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13 63 BMW 520D SE TOURING AUTO DIESEL, met black with full black leather, fsh, 116k, 1 owner £11,995

13 13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI TOURER TECHLINE, met blue, fsh, 66k £8,995

12 12 MAZDA 6 2.2D TS DIESEL, met blue, fsh, 1 owner, 41k..... £8,595

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13 62 MAZDA CX-5 D 2.2 SPORT MANUAL 5DR, white with full black leather, fsh, 73k..... £12,995

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08 58 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met silver, sh, 51k £8,295

06 06 KIA SORENTO 2.5 CRDi XS DIESEL AUTO 5DR, met blue, SH, 75k £4,495

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16 66 MG GS EXCLUSIVE 1.5T AUTO, white with full black leather, fsh, 1500 miles, EX DEMO £17,695

12 62 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 TDI SALOON, black, fsh, 50k..... £12,495

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2005 (05) **Citroen Dispatch 815D Enterprise 1.9 Diesel Van in White,** One Owner, Low Mileage For Year, Service History + New Cambelt, CD/Radio, Drivers Airbag, Remote Central Lockin, Twin Side Loading Doors, Ply Lined, c85,353 Miles **£2,750** no vat

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2005 (05) **Vauxhall Combo 1700 CDTI 16V 1.7 Diesel Van in White,** Two Owners, Service History, CD/DAB - Radio, ABS, Twin Airbags, Remote Central Locking, Twin Side Loading Doors, c94,433 Miles **£2,295** no vat

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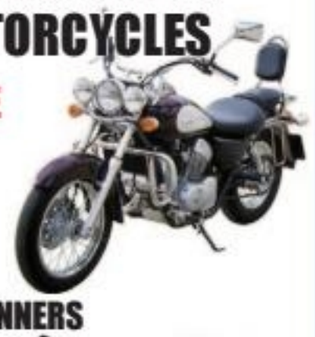

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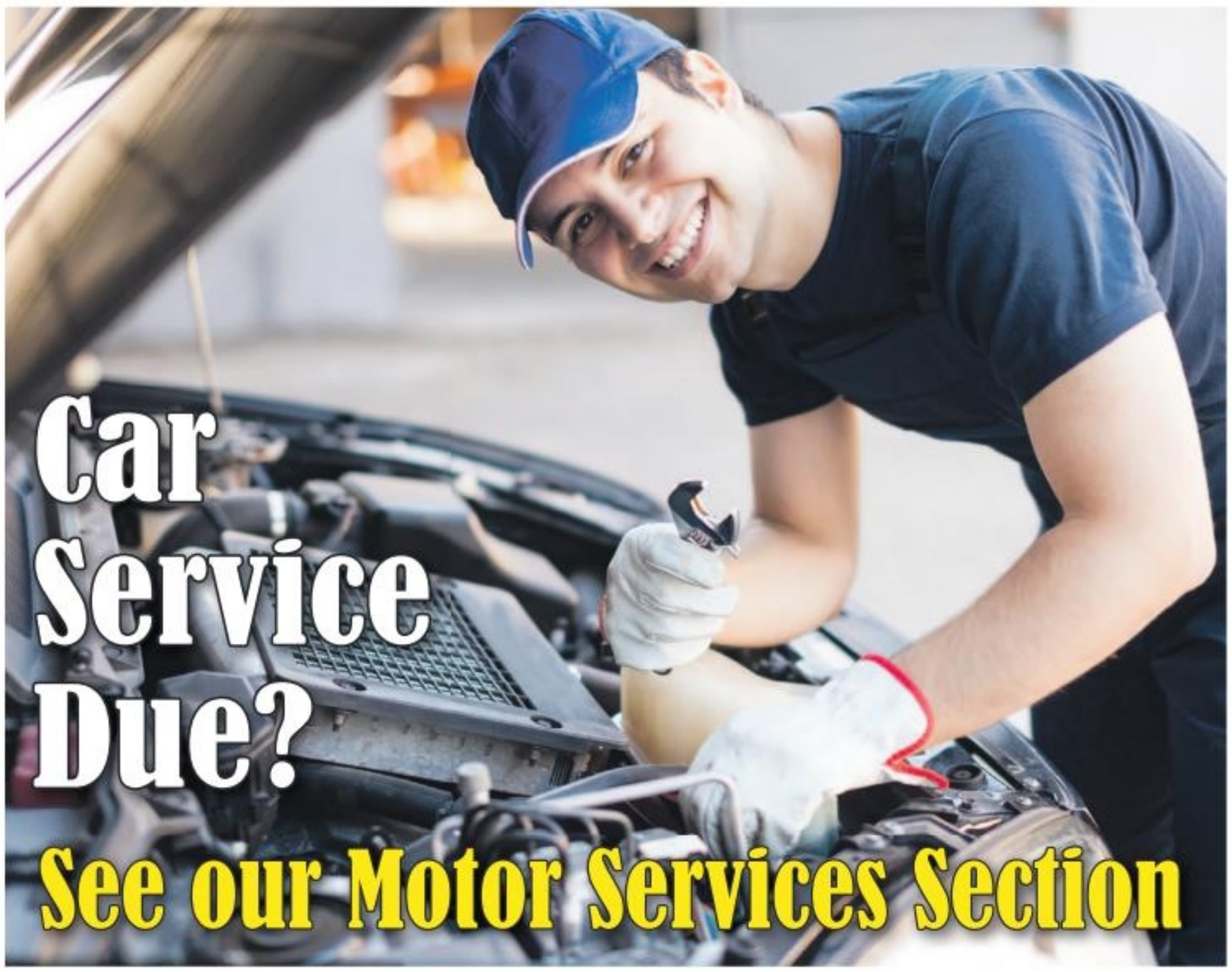

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Miles: 52,718
MOT: Will come with new MoT
Colour: Silver
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02.03.17

Renault Megane Dynamique

Year: 2007
Miles: 66,000
MOT: Jan 2018
Colour: Dark Blue
Price: £1495

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SB37110 / 02.03.17

Mazda MX-5 1.8

Year: 2004
Miles: 66,300
Colour: Silver
MOT: August 2017
Price: £2,595 ono

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Department for Transport

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The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of an irregular shaped area of highway, comprising the current access and parking for Evenlode Tower, at Oxford in the City of Oxford.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development as permitted by Oxford City Council under reference 14/02640/CT3.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford OX4 6HW in the 28 days commencing on 23 February 2017, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/2688.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **23 March 2017**. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.

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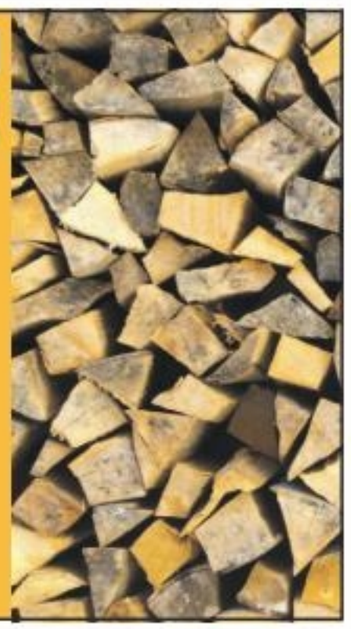

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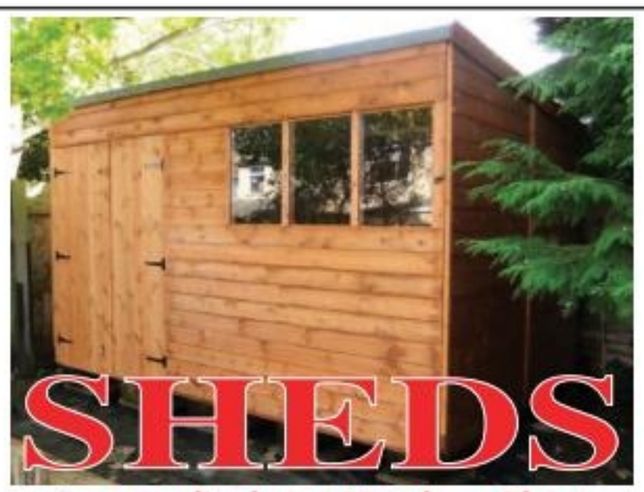

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JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425931**

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 425891**

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MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425927**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no timewasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425327**

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ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425701**

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SANDRA 38, slim blue eyed blonde, tactile, fun, would love meet a genuine, loving guy. Age/looks/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425593**

CAROLINE, 51, curvy blonde with lots of love to give, looking for special male to share a bottle of wine and snuggle up with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425495**

SUE, lovely sensual brunette, young 50, seeks adventurous, fun loving, tactile younger male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 425455**

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MALE looking for a lady 40-60 yrs old who enjoys meals out and in, and snuggle up indoors with a bottle of wine. **Text only. Mailbox: 5444500**

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. **Text only. Mailbox: 4765584**

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MALE 62 looking for a lady 45-55 for relationship must be kind, considerate and affectionate. I enjoy most things in life. **Text only. Mailbox: 5780167**

MALE 60's kind and caring, GSOH, n/s, seeks similar female for lots of love laughter and happy times and hopefully LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 4631948**

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Renault pull the covers off 'sexy looking' car for 2017

By Adam Flinn

THE first of Oxfordshire's Formula One teams has pulled the covers off its challenger for the 2017 season.

Enstone-based Renault unveiled the RS17 at a ceremony in London on Tuesday, announcing they are targeting a fifth-place finish in this year's constructors' championship.

A host of new regulations are in place for this season, including wider and heavier cars and fatter rear tyres, with the cars expected to be several seconds a lap quicker than last year's machines.

This year's Renault will be driven by Nico Hulkenberg and Jolyon Palmer, and the team will be desperate for an improvement on their ninth-place result in 2016.

Cyril Abiteboul, managing director of Renault Sport Racing, said: "For 2017 we are perfectly placed to take the step forward we all desire.

"The RS17 is the result of many long working hours spent over our two integrated locations (in Enstone and Viry, France) and the result is a car we can be proud of.

"We are the fastest growing F1 team and we now need to prove our performance on track, and our objective is to score points at every round."

This year's Renault is considered to be the French manufacturer's first of the modern era, after a late takeover of Lotus at the end of 2015 meant they had a limited influence on last year's car.

Jerome Stoll, president of Renault Sport Racing, said: "The RS17 is the first car which Enstone and Viry have been able to plan and develop from the outset, and we're satisfied by the fruits of this interaction.

"For 2017 our performance targets are clear. We want to take a definite, tangible step forward in performance and results, and fifth position in the constructors' championship is our goal."

Hulkenberg and Palmer pulled the covers off the RS17 to reveal it to the world on Tuesday.

Palmer stays with the team after scoring one point in his rookie season last year, while Hulkenberg has joined from Force India.

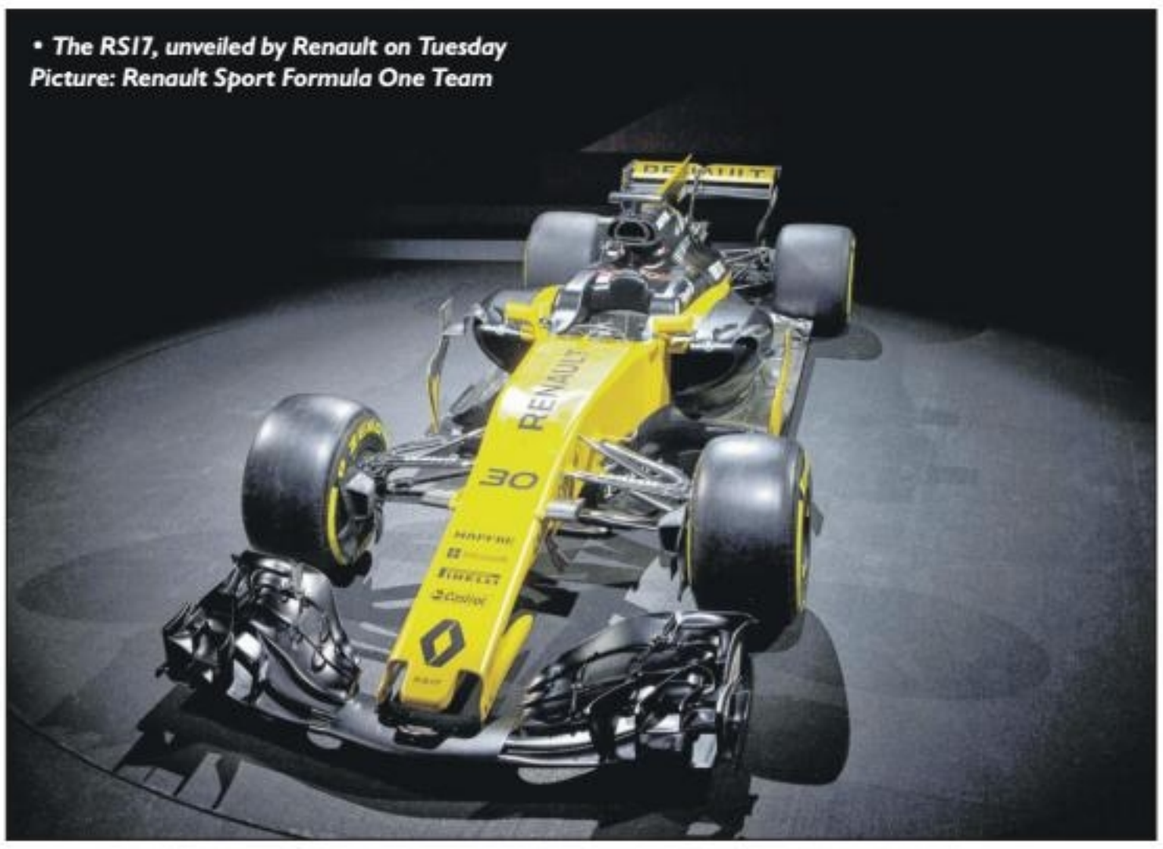
Hulkenberg said: "It looks sexy, when I first saw it in the wind tunnel I was impressed.

"It's all about having a strong package as you need a car that is a good all-rounder to perform well across the season. That's what I'm looking for."

Palmer added: "There are so many unknowns that I think it's exciting for all drivers across the grid, but for us with our first proper designed and conceived race car it's going to be very interesting.

"The RS17 looks really racy and I can't wait to taste it on track for the first time."

Pre-season testing begins in Barcelona on Monday, with the first race of the season in Australia on March 26.



• The RS17, unveiled by Renault on Tuesday
Picture: Renault Sport Formula One Team

Williams release teaser of new season challenger

AHEAD of their official car launch on Saturday, Williams have released a digital image of the FW40 in which Felipe Massa and Lance Stroll will contest the 2017 season.

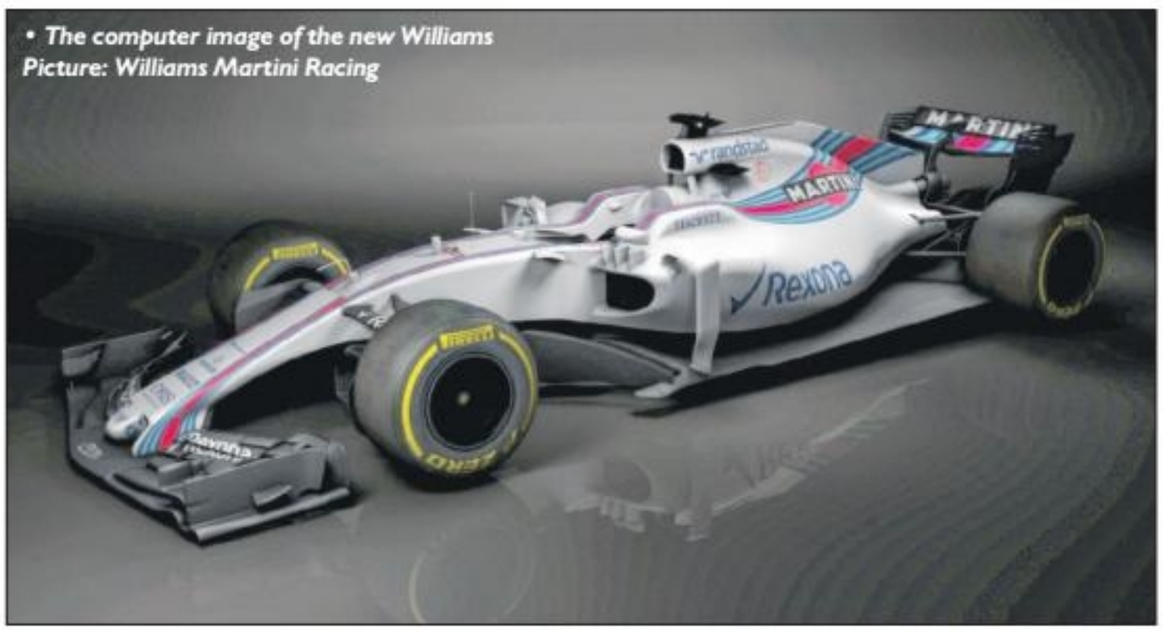
The Grove-based team is celebrating its 40th anniversary in the sport this year, and will be looking to build upon their fifth-place finish in the 2016 standings.

In a separate announcement, Williams also confirmed that British racer Paul di Resta will remain their reserve driver for this season.

Deputy team principal Claire Williams said: "It's great for us to retain someone with Paul's experience in the team.

"His extensive Formula One knowledge will once again be invaluable, especially with new regulations in place for the 2017 season."

Fellow Oxfordshire team Haas, who are based in Banbury, will unveil their new car the following day, this Sunday.



• The computer image of the new Williams
Picture: Williams Martini Racing

Tributes paid to Oxford Hockey Club's goalkeeper Tim

TRIBUTES have been flooding in for a hockey player who died playing the game he loved.

Tim Bence was playing in goal for Oxford Hockey Clubs 7th team against British Airways Hockey Club 2s at QPR Football Club's training ground at Harlington, London, when he collapsed on February 11.

Despite prompt medical assistance from team-mates, medical staff at the football club, and paramedics, Tim could not be revived. The game was immediately abandoned.

Oxford's Club chairman Richard Oakes said: "We are still in shock as he was genuinely such a nice guy.

"Tim has been a keen and enthusiastic member of the club for many years playing in goal for both the men's and mixed sections and he readily endeared himself to both team members and opponents alike."

• Tim Bence

"He will be sorely missed by the club and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

Tributes have poured in on the club's social media site from players, friends and former players.

Anand Gupta said: "Tim was an amazing man. Never met someone so good natured in such an innocent way. Was always happy, never sad. Always gave me a big bear hug before every game. Wish I could give him one now."

Lucy Brady added: "The world has lost one of the most genuine and kind men. A man who touched the hearts of everyone he met with the biggest goalie padded hugs and the greatest words of encouragement."

His mixed captain Harriet Bryant said: "Tim you filled our hockey goal and my heart with fun and laughter. As a friend and a team mate I will greatly miss you. Rest in peace xx."

British Airways Hockey Club, who were the opponents at the time said they offered their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Tim.

They said: "It is events like this which prove winning or losing is actually secondary to just enjoying the game and having a beer or two afterwards."

The club is presently thinking how to honour Tim in the long-term.

Stars fail to shine against Thunder

OXFORD City Stars lost to Milton Keynes Thunder for the fourth time this season to bring an end to their resurgent league form.

The Stars had thrashed the Thunder 8-1 at the Oxford Ice Rink earlier this month, but the tables turned when the pair clashed in Buckinghamshire on Sunday and Milton Keynes ran out 4-1 winners.

Ross Bowers and Hallden Barnes-Garner fired the home side into a 2-0 lead at the halfway stage.

Jaroslav Cesky gave Simon Anderson's side hope by halving the deficit on 34 minutes, but a fifth match unbeaten wasn't to be when the Thunder struck back with two goals.

First, Jakub Klima re-established the home side's two-goal advantage on 46 minutes, before Harrison Goode converted with three minutes later to to make it 4-1 and wrap up the win.

The Stars have won just two of the six meetings in all competitions with sixth placed Milton Keynes.

Oxford, who remain fourth in the NIHL South 1, will be looking to bounce back when they host basement club Bracknell Hornets on Sunday evening.

Season kicks off with cup victory

OXFORD RL held off a late Coventry fight-back to make it through to the quarter-finals of the League 1 Cup for the second year running.

Tim Rumford's men were in the lead for almost the entire game, but won the first match of the season by the narrowest of margins in a 30-28 victory at Tilsley Park on Saturday.

The Dark Blues, who named eight debutants, made the perfect start with a Josh Atkinson try and Will Cooke conversion,

Oxford extended the lead through Callum Windley when he dived through a gap on the line. But by half-time the score had closed to 10-6 when Jack Morrison found a large hole in the Oxford defence to score under the posts.

Oxford started the second half in the same way as the first with a score four minutes in through Kane Riley, but Cooke missed his conversion.

The Dark Blues extended their lead to 20 points with two more tries through Scott Fleming and Atkinson's second try.

With seven minutes left and an emphatic lead, the result seemed clear, but Coventry second rower Matt Reid had other ideas.

In that spell, he scored a hat-trick, all converted by Will Roper. The three tries were similar, in that they involved Reid crashing over the line from close range with defenders unable to stop him.

But it proved too late for the resurgent Bears as the hooter went immediately after Roper's final conversion to give Oxford the win, but only just.

Oxford travel to South Wales Ironmen on Sunday in the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup.

Hoops end winless run as Jones reviews time as boss

By George Welch

LEE Henderson scored the only goal of the game as Oxford City squeezed passed Hemel Hempstead at Court Place Farm and ended their winless run on Saturday.

Defender Henderson struck shortly before half-time with what proved the winner as the Hoops won their first league game since New Year's Day.

Things looked bleak for City when they conceded a penalty after just three minutes, but were handed a lifeline as Jordan Parkes fired his spot-kick over the bar.

Both sides struggled to break the deadlock in an evenly matched contest but it was the hosts who took the lead seven minutes before half-time when Henderson headed home from a Jean Niate cross.

The visitors had good chances to level after the break, but either found City stopper Craig Hill on good form or were profligate with their finishing, meaning City picked up their first clean sheet since December 17.

Temporary boss Mark Jones, who has been in charge for two months, has been reflecting on his first nine games in charge, during which he has won four, drawn three and lost two matches.

Speaking before Saturday's win he said he has been keen to stamp his own print on the club after he replaced Justin Merritt in December.

When Jones took charge, the Hoops were struggling and languishing 17th in the National League South, six points above the relegation zone.

But 15 points from nine league games later and the club is now sitting a more comfortable 12 points above the drop and in 14th place.

His appointment has seen fresh faces behind the scenes as well as on the pitch, as Tyrell Belford, Shaun Macauley and Tom Winters have all left the club – the latter two temporarily – while Kaiman Anderson, Jean Niate and Wilson Carvalho have all been signed up.

He said: "Bringing my own people in was very important to me. I felt we needed some fresh faces and new ideas on the training pitch.

"I appreciate that everybody has an opinion and that's what makes football so interesting, but I will always do what I believe is right for the team and the club. Although the next game is what we always focus on I do have one eye on looking ahead to next season and the type of team I want to build, which is a young, hungry team with energy and pace in all areas of the pitch."

City, who remain in 14th place in the National League South, host their third game in a row when they welcome Dartford to Court Place Farm on Saturday.

• Lee Henderson scored the all-important goal before half time
Picture: Michael Allen

Play-off surge halted

NORTH Leigh lost their first game of 2017 in a disappointing 3-1 defeat at Barnstaple Town as their play-off charge took a hit on Saturday.

John Brough's side, who were eight games unbeaten, slipped down to 10th in Division 1 South & West following their first defeat since the end of December in a game in which they were outfought and outplayed.

Leigh's long trip to north Devon seemed pointless from the off as they fell behind within two minutes to a close-range Ryan Turner strike.

The Millers struggled to recover from the early shock but gradually gained a foothold in the game and were dominant by the time the west Oxfordshire side equalised on 30 minutes.

The goal came from a well worked move, which saw George Seacole run into the home penalty area and flick the ball to Morgan Williams, who placed a left foot shot beyond the reach of home keeper Steven Oliver into the far corner from 10 yards.

However, Barnstaple regained the lead with a simple goal when Turner headed home on 36 minutes. Town's defence remained solid and frustrated the visiting Millers. And frustration turned to desperation when Barnstaple scored their third goal on 77 minutes.

Leigh were wasteful in possession and gifted the ball to Barnstaple playmaker Jack Jenkins, who controlled the ball on the edge of the area and hit a glorious right foot shot beyond Lewis Clayton.

The Millers, now 11 points off the play-offs with three games in hand, will try to get back to winning ways when they host 15th placed Larkhall Athletic, who have won just one game in their last 13, on Saturday.

Learoyd's header rescues a point for Didcot

A LAST minute header from Adam Learoyd salvaged a point for Didcot Town in a 2-2 draw with Bishops Cleave on Saturday.

The Railwaymen came from behind twice in the mid-table clash at the Loop Meadow to pick up their fifth draw in seven matches.

The Mitres took the lead in what was a scrappy match on a tricky pitch when Kirk Layton smashed the ball into the top corner from close range.

Didcot's best chance of the first half came when Cleave stopper Matt Wieczorek superbly saved a 30-yard strike from Callum McNish.

The second half started better for Diddy and the equaliser did eventually arrive in the 67th minute when George Jeacock, back from suspension, beat Wieczorek when sent through on goal.

The former Oxford United striker looked comfortably offside but he wasn't complaining as he rolled the ball under the goalkeeper for his first goal back in Didcot colours.

But out of nowhere with their first real attack of the half, Cleeve got their noses ahead again when substitute Jacob Nutting converted from close range.

Didcot rescued a point from a last minute corner when Learoyd bundled home at the back post.

• George Jeacock fires home to make it 1-1 against Bishops Cleave
Picture: Roger Neal

Andy Ballard's men, 14th in Division 1 South & West, travel to strugglers AFC Totton on Saturday, as they continue to search for their first win of 2017.

Martyn enjoys his golf day in the sun in Morocco

AN AMATEUR golfer from Bicester missed out on a prestigious national title when he competed in the singles final of the 2016 Morocco Matchplay earlier this month.

Semi-retired Martyn Smith, 62, a 16-handicapper who plays at Heythrop Park in Enstone, finished fourth at the Robert Trent Jones-designed PalmGolf Marrakech Palmeraie.

But he still enjoyed the experience in Morocco, where he received complimentary return flights from Gatwick, five nights' luxury bed-and-breakfast accommodation in the five-star Palmeraie Palace, four rounds of championship golf, a welcome cocktail reception and a gala dinner and prize presentation.

He said: "The smile on my face says it all. I've never won anything in a singles competition of any description at any time.

"This feels like I've won a Major. It's that good, it really is.

"I would have loved to have won, but I feel like a winner just being here."

Each finalist played up to four qualifying rounds merely to reach the regional final, with the knockout rounds taking place between June and September, and the regional finals in October. The 32 finalists battled it out between February 5 and 10.

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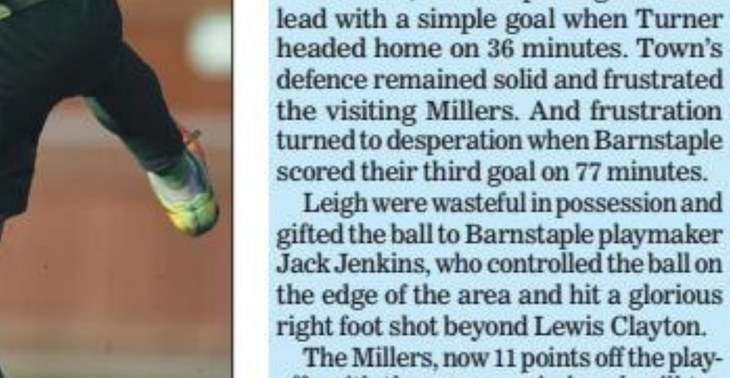

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Can United dare to dream?

By George Welch

A STUNNING first goal for Oxford United for Conor McAleny helped the U's roar back from their FA Cup disappointment to close in on the League One play-offs.

The Everton loanee, who was making his first start for the club, scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win at Charlton Athletic on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old forward scored against his former employers on 11 minutes with a fantastic 25-yard effort that flew into the back of the net via the far post.

United's fifth league away win on the bounce lifted the play-off dark horses to within six points of sixth place with two games in hand.

Following McAleny's wonder strike, Charlton dropped deeper as the U's dominated and right back Phil Edwards should have doubled United's lead when he ghosted in unmarked from a Marvin Johnson free kick, only to send the ball over the bar.

But Michael Appleton's side, who weren't at their energetic best, also had to display their defensive resolve.

There was an early let off for the U's when Charlton, despite looking nervy, rattled the bar with a 20-yard Nathan Byrne effort in the fourth minute.

Josh Magennis, Jorge Teixeira and rapid Arsenal loanee Stephy Mavididi all threatened Simon Eastwood's goal before the break.

The Addicks piled on the pressure for 20 minutes after the break and one 30-second spell just before the hour saw Ryan Ledson block twice and Charlton substitute Joe Aribo smack a shot against the post with Eastwood, for once, beaten. Eastwood, who collected his 17th clean sheet of the season, was smartly off his line to punch the ball from the forehead of Magennis as the home side pressed, but U's weathered the storm and on 70 minutes had an extra man to help.

Charlton captain Chris Solly received his marching orders with 20 minutes remaining when he flew into a poorly timed challenge on his Oxford counterpart John Lundstram to pick up a straight red.

United were then able to carve out more chances of their own, with Kane Hemmings, Rob Hall and Edwards (twice) going close to securing maximum points.

The U's defence had to be on their guard against the counter attack but the points were in the bank once the impressive Ledson heroically cleared a header off the line in the final seconds.

Conor McAleny charges after the ball in the game against Southend Picture by Steve Daniels

Difficult for English managers to work in the Premier League

OXFORD United head coach Michael Appleton has said it is becoming more difficult for British managers to work in the Premier League due to the 'myth' that foreign coaches are superior.

In an interview with the BBC prior to last weekend's FA Cup fifth round matches, Appleton said it is becoming more difficult for British coaches to land Premier League jobs due to the perception that foreign coaches are better than home-grown ones.

Salford-born Appleton was speaking to BBC pundit and former Manchester City player Trevor Sinclair before United's narrow 3-2 FA Cup defeat at Middlesbrough, in which his side, then 39-places below the Premier League outfit, were four minutes from causing an upset against Boro, managed by Spaniard Aitor Karanka.

Appleton said: "I think it is becoming more difficult [for young British coaches to manage in the Premier League] with the influx of foreign coaches and managers because a lot of ownerships are foreign ownership and there's this myth that foreign coaches are better than British coaches.

"I think if they did their due diligence properly they would probably find that's not quite the case.

"But the reality is, as young English managers, there will be opportunities to possibly take a club into the Premier League and then it's down to yourself to stay in there.

"But even that's becoming difficult now because a lot of the coaches in the Championship [are foreign].

"There's no doubt that myself and a lot of people that are more experienced than me and better coaches and managers at this moment in time than myself will still be chasing that and rightly so."

Sixteen of the 24 Championship managers – or two-thirds – are British.

But in the Premier League, just seven of the 20 managers are British (35 per cent).

And of that seven, only two are in the top half, with Welshman and West Brom manager Tony Pulis the highest ranking Brit in eighth place.

José Mourinho, who had Karanka as his number two for three years between 2010 and 2013 at Real Madrid, said last week that some foreign coaches fail to understand English football's culture and this can lead to FA Cup upsets.

Jürgen Klopp's heavily-rotated Liverpool lost at home to Wolves in the fourth round, although the biggest cup upset so far this year has been Lincoln City's win at Burnley, who are managed by Kettering-born Sean Dyche.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	33	24	65
2	Scunthorpe	32	25	60
3	Bolton	31	19	58
4	Fleetwood Town	33	15	58
5	Southend	33	11	53
6	Bradford City	33	11	52
7	Millwall	32	7	51
8	Rochdale	31	4	48
9	Peterborough United	33	1	47
10	Oxford United	31	5	46
11	Bristol Rovers	33	-2	46
12	Walsall	33	-2	46
13	Charlton Athletic	32	6	42
14	AFC Wimbledon	32	0	40
15	Northampton Town	33	-4	40
16	MK Dons	32	0	39
17	Shrewsbury	33	-11	38
18	Gillingham	33	-10	36
19	Oldham	33	-12	35
20	Bury	33	-11	34
21	Port Vale	31	-16	34
22	Swindon Town	33	-18	30
23	Chesterfield	33	-21	28
24	Coventry	32	-21	25

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Appleton's pride at team performance in FA Cup

PROUD Oxford United boss Michael Appleton has praised his side following Saturday's late 3-2 FA Cup heartbreak at Middlesbrough.

The Premier League side looked too strong for League One United when Grant Leadbitter and Rudy Gestede fired Aitor Karanka's side into a 2-0 lead within 34 minutes.

But Oxford, who will feel unfortunate to have a Chris Maguire goal disallowed when 1-0 down, clawed their way back into the match in an impressive second half performance.

A delightful Maguire free kick and a Toni Martinez strike a minute apart just after the hour mark had United believing they could sneak into the quarter-final for the first time since 1964.

But with time running out, Middlesbrough freshened up their front line by bringing on Christian Stuani and Alvaro Negredo and the pair linked up to break the hearts of the 3,500-strong away fans.

With four minutes remaining, Uruguayan Stuani tapped in at the back post after Negredo cleverly flicked on a Fabio cross to send Boro into the quarter-finals, where they will host either Huddersfield or Manchester City next month.

But Appleton, who has beaten eight higher division teams during his Oxford tenure, believes his side can hold their heads high following defeat in the north east against a team 39-places superior in the football league pyramid.

Speaking straight after the match, Appleton said: "I am very proud. Tomorrow [Sunday] I will feel more proud of them. At the minute I'm just a little frustrated – we came here to win the game.

Oxford celebrate after drawing the game back to 2-2. Picture by Darrell Fisher

"For us to come back like we did and as strongly as we did in the second half and almost spend the majority of the second half in their half of the field and be positive and keep pressing…I'm obviously delighted with the way they approached the second half.

"It looked as if it was going to be one of those fantastic comebacks, but it wasn't to be and we move on very quickly. We've had a good run."

Appleton can be given credit for giving it a go against Middlesbrough, who are fighting to stay in the Premier League after winning the Championship play-offs last year.

United set up with two out-and-out strikers for the first time in months, in an attempt to get down the sides of Boro's centre halves.

After admitting his side were "star-struck" in the opening exchanges, Appleton said he thought there would only be one winner once Oxford had doggedly fought back.

An historic quarter-final wasn't to be for the U's, but Appleton has every reason to be encouraged as the 2016/17 campaign heads into its final three months.

He said: "If they put a string of performances like that together in the coming weeks then we will still be competing on two fronts [as they chase the League One play-offs and the Checkatrade Trophy]."

He also praised the vocal U's fans, saying: "They're incredible supporters. I'm sure they've had a good day today and will be proud of how the players have performed.

"We're going to need them from now until the end of the season because we've got a lot of big games coming up."

It's back to league action for United this Saturday, as they make the trip to Chesterfield.

Ex-U's boss's tribute to shining diamond defender McCarthy

FORMER Oxford United defender Paul McCarthy has died at the age of 45.

It has been reported that the former Ireland under-21 passed away suddenly on Monday after a suspected heart attack, just five years after retiring.

McCarthy made nearly 600 appearances for five clubs in a long 23-year career.

He began his career at Brighton & Hove Albion, where he played more than 200 games, before signing for Wycombe Wanderers in 1996 for £100,000.

The Cork-born defender would go on to play 259 times for the Chairboys and scored an FA Cup quarter-final goal to help the Buckinghamshire side reach the 2001 FA Cup semi-final.

McCarthy initially joined the U's on a loan deal from Adams Park in 2003.

After making six appearances on his temporary deal, the centre back signed a permanent contract that summer and went on to play 35 games for United before being released at the end of the season.

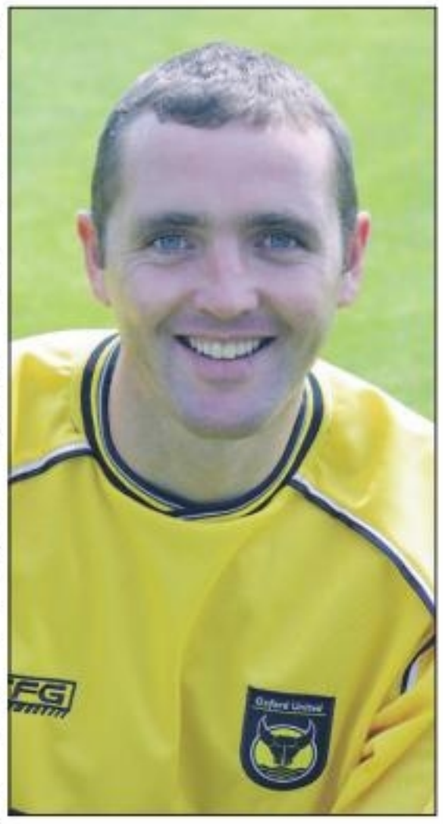
He would then go on to play for Hornchurch and Ebbsfleet, where he waon the FA Trophy, before retiring in 2012 at the age of 40.

Oxford United said everyone at the club was "saddened" by McCarthy's death.

He joined United in 2003 and was a consistent performer at the heart of a solid defence alongside the likes of Andy Crosby and Matt Bound.

Ian Atkins, U's boss from 2001 to 2004, brought McCarthy to the Kassam Stadium and described his former defender as "a diamond".

Atkins told the club's website: "He was a diamond. To be fair I had about 15 diamonds there at Oxford, great lads who were a pleasure to work with and all stuck closely together, but he was one of the ones that shone the brightest.



• Former Oxford United defender Paul McCarthy who died this week Picture by Steve Daniels

"He was a natural leader and had a great football brain.

"Sometimes I'd just look his way on the pitch and he would know what I was thinking and get the message across to the other players for me.

"Even after he left the club we stayed in touch and I am shocked and really sad to hear the news.

"I had so much time for him – we all did – and my thoughts and prayers are all with his family at this sad time."

After leaving the U's, McCarthy played for another eight years at Ebbsfleet United before finally hanging up his boots at the age of 40.

United said: "The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Paul's family and friends."

United's Portugal summer training camp

OXFORD United will enjoy a week-long training camp in Portugal this summer as part of the club's preparations for the 2017/18 campaign.

Having spent time in Austria (2015) and Spain (2016) for the last two pre-seasons, head coach Michael Appleton will this summer take his players to the Algarve between July 10 and 16.

The squad will stay near the Vilamoura resort and will play two friendly games, which the club said will be announced in 'due course'.

Chairman Darryl Eales said: "The trips to Austria and Spain have been unforgettable experiences and have really helped form an unbreakable bond between the players, staff and fans.

"The players know they will have a lot of hard work to get through but I know they will look forward to visiting Portugal just as much as the fans.

"We wanted to announce the dates and location as early as possible to allow supporters to book their time off and make plans.

"We are slightly earlier in doing so than most teams which is why we aren't able to announce who we will be playing quite yet, but it will be another hugely enjoyable week and we would love as many fans as possible to join us."

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